



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestine National Council 20th Session

'Arafat Hopes All Factions Attend

LD2209191991 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] The brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the Palestinian state, arrived in Algiers this afternoon to participate in the proceedings of the 20th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. At his reception at Houari Boumedienne Airport were Abdelaziz Belkhadem, the speaker of the Algerian National Assembly, and the ambassador of the Palestinian state to Algeria.

Following his arrival, president leader Abu-'Ammar said that he hoped Palestinian unity would be ensured through the attendance of all Palestinian factions that have been invited to attend the proceedings of the PNC, which is considered a fateful turning point in the history of the Palestinian cause. This is due to the developments and changes which affect not only the Palestinian people and the Arab nation, but also the international powers.

Concerning Israel's banning of PNC members in the occupied territories from participating in the proceedings of this session, brother president leader Abu-'Ammar affirmed that all the attempts which the PLO has conducted with the United Nations, the Security Council, European countries, and others, have been strongly rejected by Israel. This rejectionist attitude, as he pointed out, reveals the ugly, racist, fascist face of the ruling clique in Israel, which does not want peace and welfare and which aspires for Greater Israel stretching from the Euphrates to the Nile.

In conclusion, president leader Abu-'Ammar expressed the thanks of the Palestinian people to the Algerian people who embrace the Palestinian revolution in all its jihad-related, political, and organizational battles.

'Arafat Speech at Opening Session

CM2409110091 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the opening session of the 20th Palestine National Council session at the Club Des Pins in Algiers on 23 September—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Verily We have granted thee a manifest victory: That God may forgive thee thy faults of the past and those to follow; fulfill His favor to thee; and guide thee on the Straight Way; and that God may help thee with powerful help. It is He Who sent down Tranquility into the hearts of the Believers, that they may add faith to their Faith; for to God belong the Forces of the heavens and the earth; and God is full of Knowledge and Wisdom. [Koranic verses]

Brother Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, representative of brother mujahid His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid [applause]; His Excellency Brother Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the National Assembly; His Excellency Lakhdar Brahimi, minister of foreign affairs; their excellencies the ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions; sisters and brothers, members of the Palestine National Council; dear brother guests; my brothers, my beloved ones, my kinfolk, all of my kinfolk in our beloved land, in Palestine, heroes of the blessed intifadah [applause], our prisoners and detainees in the jails of occupation, our brave wounded, every child, every man, every woman in this great revolutionary march, O forgers of glory, O forgers of the epic, O forgers of glory, sisters and brothers: It is a great honor for our PNC to be held on the land of Algeria, the land of heroic Algeria, the land of one and a half million martyrs. The fact that Algeria and its mujahid President Chadli Bendjedid are hosting our council [applause] bears profound impressive meanings in view of Algeria's prominent status in the history of the glorious liberation struggle for independence and in view of its great people's honorable deeds in support of the peoples' struggle for freedom and independence, particularly the struggle of our Palestinian people. A greeting to Algeria, a greeting to Algeria, a greeting to Algeria, the land of martyrs and victory, the land of martyrs and victory, the land of martyrs and victory [applause]. A greeting to the mujahid people of Algeria, the people of sacrifice and faithfulness, a greeting to my brother mujahid Chadli Bendjedid and his wise government.

A greeting to Tunisia, to green Tunisia [applause], and its people, and its struggling President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, for embracing the PLO with their warmth and faith.

O sisters and brothers, convening our National Council in its new formation in its 20th session—the session of Jerusalem and the martyrs—arouses our deepest feelings of love and loyalty to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem, to Jerusalem the capital of the independent state of Palestine; and the deepest feelings of pride in our righteous martyrs who fell in the course of our march on the long road to Jerusalem, on the long road to Jerusalem, on the long road to Jerusalem. To Jerusalem, to Palestine! We have named this session in the name of Jerusalem and in their name so that their spirits, flying around us, can rest assured that they are with us, in our hearts and minds. With us is Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the prince of martyrs. [applause] With us, with us in Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf]. [applause] With us in Abu-Iyad with his shrewdness; with us in Abu-Iyad with his shrewdness, his strength, and his known steadfastness in all our confrontations. With us in Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] [applause]. Abu-al-Hawl, Abu-al-Hawl with his calm and faith. With us in Abu-Muhammad. With us in the beloved [interrupted by applause], with us in the beloved 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad [applause] with his sincerity, and patriotism. With us in the beloved 'Abd-al-Latif with his calm and commitment. [applause] Abu

with us is the committed beloved al-Hawwari. With us the martyr [interrupted by applause], with us the martyr Abu-Ziyad [applause] who fell [applause], who fell while defending his people in Kuwait. With us is this replete record of the great immortal men of Palestine, its women, and its children who sacrificed their lives on the road of the revolution, sacrifices, and the intifadah until liberation, until liberation, until victory [applause].

A greeting to these righteous martyrs. A greeting to our prisoners and detainees. A greeting to our brave injured. I pledge to them, I pledge to them and to all martyrs, all great martyrs, that we will continue the jihad, and will continue to carry their holy message until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the walls of Jerusalem, the minarets of Jerusalem, and the churches of Jerusalem; the capital of the independent and free state of Palestine. [applause]

O masses of the blessed popular intifadah: Our masses in the diaspora, our steadfast Palestinian people with their masses—children, women, and men—stationed inside the occupied homeland through their blessed intifadah struggle with persistence and determination to see the dawn of freedom and independence light Palestine. They continue their steadfastness, and excel in their struggle which is becoming revitalized despite the beastly Israeli repression; despite mass killings and official organized terrorism; despite starvation, despite programmed starvation, deliberate stultification, drying up of resources, and destruction of vital and education utilities and all that is linked with the simplest means of human life. Despite all this, our people continue their steadfastness, and heroic struggle—despite the destructive settlement mechanism that is swallowing up its land and homeland; despite the influx of new emigrants to our territories; despite all forms of oppression and rights suppression; despite the injustice and Israeli crimes; and despite the mass detention camps. Our people, as they face all this, deserve total support and backing from their brothers and friends in the causes of the epic steadfastness and epic resistance, and so that we are able to support and maintain our national, popular, social, economic, and medical institutions, to supply them with all the means of continuity, development, and success, so that they can stand up to the challenges facing us on all fronts. These challenges have reached....[changes thought]

Brothers, as you know in your capacity as members of this council, my brothers the ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions, and guests, should realize the level of starvation in Gaza, and the acute economic embargo in the West Bank. Despite all this, despite the hunger and this suffering, despite this, we see our masses, with pride and esteem, forging this strong epic and evincing defiance. This Zionist and racist tyranny that uses all its capabilities and the capabilities of its allies, with this faith which fills the hearts and the will which fills the souls, and the determination to continue the jihad until the achievements of one of two good things—victory or martyrdom, victory or martyrdom, victory or martyrdom.

If the suffering of our people in the occupied homeland is the point of all this concern, it must not cause us to forget the suffering of our people outside the occupied homeland. Our kinfolk in Kuwait [applause] and what they have suffered. Our kinfolk in Kuwait; what they have suffered and what they continue to suffer in terms of pain and oppression, and the misery of those deported. Our kinfolk in Lebanon; our kinfolk in the diaspora and everywhere on this land, the Arab land and all over the world.

It is the suffering of the steadfast believers and mujahidin; it is the suffering of the steadfast believers and mujahidin who are filled with belief in God and confidence in their just cause, and with belief that the hour of salvation is certainly coming. Sensing our people's suffering and working toward solving their problems and making available the means of an honorable life will remain a trust on our conscience, which we ask God to help us carry.

O Brothers, O Sisters: Our PNC has always been, and will continue to be, God willing, a deep-rooted home for our leading democracy of which we are proud and whose bases were laid down since the early beginnings on the land of Jerusalem. We proceeded with this democracy out of deep realization of the fact of interaction between democracy and freedom through freedom and independence. Our successive generations have safeguarded this great, difficult, and successful experiment. We are duty bound to hand over this trust to the coming generations of our people so that they will safeguard this historic achievement, develop it, and deepen its existence in our national life, and on our land, God willing.

I am confident that the Palestinians who carried the banner of democracy in this part of the world, and raised their eternal slogan of protecting democracy with more democracy, will continue this civilized course; in fact, the creative Palestinian mind will create new modern formulas to develop the democratic performance within our national institutions, frameworks, and structures.

From here, from the home of Palestinian democracy, I call on our people wherever they are to take more creative popular [qa'idiah] initiatives, which—if crystallized within modern frameworks and new institutions—will provide strong sources to rejuvenate our organization, the PLO, and develop its effectiveness and institutions on all levels with a creative rejuvenating spirit that is in harmony with the age, interacts and reacts with it, in fact, to present this intifadah to the world as an example to be followed in confronting the occupiers, racists, and colonialist tyrants.

Sisters, brothers: During the period of hard preparations for this meeting, we did our best to reach the desirable level of representation for all popular national forces and trends. However, we faced an extremely difficult and complicated obstacle. It is no secret that I, together with my brothers at the PNC presidency and the Palestinian leadership, sought help from the highest international

circles to overcome these difficulties—namely, to make it possible for our people's representatives in the occupied homeland to participate in these meetings. Regrettably, however, we did not succeed, thanks to Israel's intransigence and racism, and its refusal to allow those representatives to participate. This further reveals the true nature of the Israeli Government as an anti-democratic and racist government depriving our Palestinian people of the most fundamental human and political rights. Likewise, this government is hostile to peace and the resolutions of international legitimacy, including the legitimate political national rights of our people.

Nevertheless, the absence of the Palestinian representatives, who are being held in the occupied territories, from these meetings because of Israel's rejection and its continuous oppressive military measures against our people, must prompt us all to redouble our efforts to shoulder the massive responsibility. Our people—who made the intifadah, and who, through their creative action, have drawn up the loftiest, noblest, and most wonderful pictures of struggle for liberation—are being prevented, by the force of occupation, from exercising their civilized democratic option and from practicing the most fundamental human rights at a time when talk about human rights borders on sacredness. Our people are not allowed to live a normal life like all peoples on earth.

These people are looking at our council to derive from its decisions new strength to help them demonstrate more steadfastness and firmness, and more progress, with firm, confident steps toward freedom and independence. These people are looking to the new world to help them achieve their legitimate national and political rights so that our children will live free on their free land like the rest of the children in the world.

Sisters and brothers: During this session, no doubt, we will study our political options for the upcoming stage. I am sure that this council will make the right political decisions that serve our people. We, sisters and brothers, are closely following the movement of international developments, we are not absent. We are examining the depth and impact of the major accelerating changes which are affecting the entire world. We are aware of the uncontroversial political fact that, if the world is not really building a new order, it is rapidly moving toward the entrenchment of a new international reality on new ethical, political, material, and economic bases affecting the essence and horizons of international relations during the coming stage.

Here, and amid this sea of developments and changes, the world community should look seriously at the Palestinian cause and people and do everything it can to prevent this sin from being committing again—the sin of wronging the Palestinians and seizing their rights.

The Palestinian people lost their homeland as a consequence of the injustices of the old world order, and were

deprived of their national and political rights, and even human rights. The Palestinian people were even expelled from their land in the era following the first and second world wars and the subsequent hot or cold wars. No kind of logic or interpretation can be used to justify the deprivation of the Palestinian people of these rights in the era of the emerging new world order. I would like to repeat this: I am calling on the world to understand me. No kind of logic or interpretation can be used to justify its deprivation from these rights in the emerging era of the new world order. These rights are a moral and humanitarian and political responsibility shouldered by the international community and human conscience in lifting this injustice and upholding right. Peace cannot possibly be built on the oppression of peoples. Peace cannot possibly be built on the oppression of peoples. Peace cannot hold except through the achievement of the Palestinian people's national rights, including its right to return to its homeland, self-determination, and the establishment of its independent state, with the capital being Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Jerusalem. [applause]

I am not saying this only to pinpoint the seriousness of the ethical wrongdoing in this matter; I am stating this because of other deeply rooted matters related to our awareness of the Middle East situation and its position within the framework of the structure and soul of the new order. The Middle East in particular is a region where opportunities for peace are on an equal footing with opportunities for war [Arafat repeats the sentence three times].

The Middle East includes its central cause: The issue of Palestine remains at any rate a fundamental pivotal spot that boasts significant potential to influence international reality. It either offers the international order a firm point of stability or takes it away. May all world leaders be aware of this saying. Those who are not aware of it let them learn it, let them read history. History is the best teacher for all leaders and all governments.

Therefore, from this podium I call on President George Bush, President Mikhail Gorbachev, and leaders of the major industrialized nations, the European countries and friendly countries at the United Nations, leaders of democratic thought around the world, to all peoples and leaders and freedom and peace-loving forces working on their behalf. I appeal to all of these from the heart and the mind to pay attention to the Middle East and to exert themselves to promote a settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute and its core—the Palestine issue—on the bases of justice and international legitimacy, before the situation in our region becomes chronic and insoluble, and turns into an extremely delicate and serious development. If the entire world is honestly discussing a precious opportunity on the horizon, we the Palestinians were the first ones who took the first step on the difficult and long path. We will be the side, compared to other sides, who will show the utmost seriousness in dealing with this opportunity. Yes, we will be the most serious side in dealing with this opportunity using an open mind. We will also have our strong determination, however, our

principled firm option we pursued with deep awareness through the Palestinian peace initiative in 1988, which we handled with realistic and constitutional steps that was welcomed by the entire world. We want permanent and fair peace, since our national struggle was, to begin with, launched for this kind of peace. On the strength of experience and on the strength of our reliance on all the aspects and modern horizons of political realism, we are aware that for peace to be a well-established fact, it should be founded clearly on the people's natural right to self-determination, and on the international legitimacy of its resolutions and principles, not the legitimacy of the jungle they are out to impose on us in Palestine.

International legitimacy has granted our people the very precious blessing of their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil. International legitimacy has also unequivocally affirmed that Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, is irrevocable and that there can be no indulgence on its implementation. International legitimacy also recognized our dispersed people's right to return to their land and properties. International legitimacy condemned Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories and on the Golan, and viewed them as an illegal act that should stop. A review of the UN resolutions, even of the stands of all the countries in the world, taken one by one, emphasizes these bases, which are the crux of peace in the Middle East. They are also the essence of the just solution to the Palestinian cause. This represents the required credibility. It is the required credibility. It is the required credibility. Not two criteria but one criterion. Credibility is required for the peace process and for the peace conference which is on the verge of being convened.

We reiterate our readiness to work with all international parties to bring about the success of the peace conference and achieve what is aspired by the peoples of the region in terms of a just peace, security, and stability, especially our Palestinian people, who are aspiring to achieve their freedom, independence, and repatriation. We reiterate our readiness to cooperate in overcoming the remaining obstacles along the path of its convocation, hoping that the other parties will do their best to overcome these obstacles. However, let all know, let all know, let all know that we reject the Israeli extortion and the Israeli conditions. Let all know that we reject the Israeli extortion and the Israeli conditions. [applause] We do this from our responsible position as representatives of our Palestinian people, from the position of the PLO which has been shaped by the national will of our people through the ever-growing struggle and which is acknowledged by the world as being the reference with respect to all that deals with the Palestinian cause and the peace process.

We, brothers and sisters, will study in this session the various aspects relating to this vital issue, guided by the supreme national interests of our Palestinian people and our Arab nation and the firmly established national

constants as expressed in the resolutions of our national councils, particularly the independence resolution and the peaceful Palestinian initiative.

I am confident that our council will adopt the soundest of resolutions and courses.

O masses of our great Arab nation, O masses of our great Arab nation, our Arab nation experienced tumultuous events over the past year with the Gulf war as their climax. As you know, this war produced tragic results: and our Arab nation was the first to pay its price. This war resulted in the destruction of two fraternal Arab countries, Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq and its fraternal people continue to suffer from starvation and the siege as a result of this war. Our Palestinian people also suffered the worst losses as a result of this war. It pains us to see that this ferocious war further entrenches the rift in the single Arab body, and spreads hatred in the hearts while our nation needs to close ranks, unite its stand so that it will become worthy of assuming the place it deserves in this new and contemporary world.

I call on all the leaders of our Arab nation, on your behalf, to turn over a new leaf in brotherly relations. In the name of Jerusalem; in the name of Jerusalem; in the name of Jerusalem [applause], I call on them to return to the spirit of genuine solidarity, which has always inspired hope in the hearts of the Arab masses which are aspiring for freedom, progress, and support for their just causes.

I call on my Maghreb brothers—[addressing the Algerian prime minister] Mr. Ghazali, I want you to listen to me and convey this to my brother President Chadli Bendjedid, and I think that the Maghreb foreign ministers are meeting now, so this point is addressed to them—I call on my Maghreb brothers, the leaders and people, to assume their historical and pan-Arab responsibility, so as to constitute the lever, because you do constitute the lever now, and to contribute, along with all sincere people in our Arab nation, to unifying ranks and stands, so that our nation can face up to challenges, primarily the to-be-or-not-to-be challenge, and so that the new world order would not be at our expense and at that of our pan-Arab security and our future generations.

Sisters, brothers: I share with our heroic people in the occupied homeland and everywhere their hope to see our council as a cell of activity and exploration, a starting point for renovation and development, and a source of sound and vital decisions that do not stop at the limits of political efforts alone, but extend to all spheres of our national and struggling life. This is your primary responsibility, and this is what our people everywhere are aspiring for.

Finally, allow me to ask you to commemorate loyally the noblest, purest, and most honorable in our hearts and emotions—Jerusalem and the martyrs. Jerusalem is the first of the two qiblas [direction which Muslims face during prayers], the third holiest place, the terminal of the journey of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace

and blessings be upon him, and the cradle of Christ, peace be upon him. Jerusalem lives in our hearts and the hearts of our nation and the believers as a sacred dream and a crystal-clear reality. It is our capital, in whose sky we must one day raise the flag of liberated Palestine. We ask God not to make that day far off. They see it far off, while we see it near. But we are telling the truth.

Also, remember the martyrs who fell on the land of Palestine and on the road to it—the martyrs of the intifadah and the leaders who created the glory of the homeland and the nation and the greatest popular epic of struggle in modern history. It was for the sake of the martyrs and the genuine values embodied in Jerusalem and the martyrs that we have called this session after their immortal name, the session of Jerusalem and martyrs. It is the session of loyalty to noble values; it is the session of loyalty to noble values; it is the session of renewing the pledge and oath to continue to take that path with an unbending will and tireless, solid, and faithful determination to pursue our jihad until the dawn breaks. The dawn will break soon, and victory is imminent. Jerusalem can now be seen on the horizon.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And we wished to be gracious to those who were depressed in the land, to make them leaders in faith, and make them heirs. To establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] God has promised. God does not go back on His promise, yet the majority of people are ignorant of this fact. The revolution goes on until victory, victory, victory is achieved.

Algeria's Ghazali Reiterates Support

*LD2309180291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Sep 91*

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali, who is representing President Chadli Bendjedid at the proceedings of the PNC's 20th session, delivered a speech at the opening audience on behalf of the president. He conveyed greetings from the latter, who, on behalf of the Algerian people, welcomed the participants in the session proceedings and reiterated the support of the Algerian people and their absolute backing of the Palestinian people's struggle.

The prime minister expressed the hope that this session of Jerusalem, of the three martyrs, Abu-Jihad, Abu al-Hawl, and Abu-Iyad, will achieve the expectations of the fraternal and steadfast Palestinian people, and that the PNC deliberations will lead to resolutions of unity of word and ranks.

Mr. Ghazali added that the convening of the PNC in Algeria, under such difficult and sensitive circumstances, is the embodiment of the continued cohesion between the Algerian and Palestinian peoples, which is also an expression of the strength of Algeria's sincere commitment to the Palestinian cause and its definite desire to preserve the cause's revolutionary existence.

Chairmanship Candidates Listed

*LD2309173291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
1600 GMT 23 Sep 91*

[Text] The votes in the election of the new PNC chairman, which is being currently held at the Palais des Nations in the Club des Pins, are being counted. We now go over to the radio team live at the Palais des Nations.

[Unidentified correspondent] As you said, the election of the new PNC chairman is being held at this moment by secret ballot and under the observation of all present members, who are following with great interest the moves of the person in charge of the counting.

There are four candidates for the PNC chairmanship. Among them—and this is the new element—is Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, whom, it appears, 'Arafat has insisted be renominated. The other candidates are Shafiq al-Hut, Yasir 'Amr, and Hani 'Abd-al-Ghani.

Let us point out that the Membership Committee issued the results of its proceedings at a public session which was not attended by journalists. Its attendance was estimated at 413, with 71 absentees out of a PNC total of 484.

It seems that, according to the counting process, which ended a few moments ago as I was listening to the registration and counting, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih will be unanimously reelected to head the PNC, as he obtained the majority of votes.

Al-Sa'ih Reelected Chairman

*LD2409001991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2300 23 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] During the first day of its session, the Palestine National Council reelected Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih as its chairman, and elected two deputy chairmen and a secretary. The council also set up a three-man committee to discuss the principle of an amendment to Article 14, Paragraph 1 of the statutes, as proposed by most members of the council, calling for an increase in the number of executive committee members to between 15 and 18 members, instead of 14.

The members who proposed the amendment added a memo clarifying the causes for an amendment, including the strengthening of the unity of action.

On the other hand, the PNC adopted a six-point agenda: the intifadah and efforts to bolster and promote it; the developments in the Palestinian question at Arab and international levels; the situation of the Palestinian communities outside the occupied lands; the election of the executive committee and the central council; any new business; and the five-man vetting committee.

No Final Decision on Peace Conference

JN2409100391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
24 Sep 91 pp 1, 17

[By AL-DUSTUR correspondent Tawfiq 'Abid from Algiers]

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the current Palestine National Council session is convening to make a historic political decision. Up to now, the Palestinian people believe that there is an opportunity for them to take part in the peace process, provided that this process is based on specific political and legal bases.

'Abd-Rabbuh told the AL-DUSTUR correspondent in Algiers: In this session, we will not ask for the impossible. We will only demand that there be equitable representation for the Palestinian people, and also that the bases on which the proposed peace conference will be convened be in line with international legitimacy. He added: What we have so far obtained from the United States is insufficient. It does not constitute an adequate basis for us. Jerusalem would not be represented. Besides, it would not be discussed as a major issue on the agenda. With regard to settlements, the Americans have nothing to say other than that they are an obstacle to peace. As far as we are concerned, we stress the need to remove this obstacle, and to halt settlement building. Moreover, we demand the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and view it as something substantial and basic for the progress of the peace process.

'Abd-Rabbuh went on to say: We will not isolate ourselves from the political process. We would like to tell other parties, however, that to render this process a success, they ought to respond favorably to the objective conditions which we put forward: the conditions that are in line with international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, and U.S. President George Bush's speech before the Congress.

In response to a question posed by AL-DUSTUR, the PLO official said that the PNC will not make a final decision on participation or nonparticipation in the peace conference. However, it will define the political rules to be used as guidelines by the Palestinian leadership to determine the position to be taken with regard to the peace conference.

When queried further, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: There are no abstentions from the 20th PNC session. Some figures who failed to attend sent letters of apology, saying that they are not attending for purely personal reasons. He added that some of the forces which did not attend have been boycotting the PLO for ten years. They have not changed their position despite the positive efforts we made to allow them to make their contributions. At any rate, the PNC is in its first days. They still have the chance to come and attend if they so desire. We wish to see them attend, 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

'Abd-Rabbuh stated that the PNC members inside the occupied territories are now—yesterday—meeting in Jerusalem to confirm that they are natural members of the PNC, and that their failure to attend the PNC meetings is caused by Israel.

On how the situation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] was settled, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: There is no issue called a settlement of the DFLP issue. In appreciation of the positions of all nationalist forces, however, we agreed to the proposed formula, which called for maintaining the previous state of affairs. For our part, this falls in line with our unionist trend and desire not see the PNC, while discussing critical political issues, compelled to tackle internal or bilateral issues.

'Abd-Rabbuh added: I am the DFLP's candidate for the PLO Executive Committee membership. The PLO Executive Committee is the party which decides the issue. When it makes its decision in this regard after four days, I will tell you more. He went on to say: The DFLP will remain part of the PNC and the various PLO institutions. I am honored to have been nominated by the DFLP as a candidate for the Executive Committee membership.

In response to a question, 'Abd-Rabbuh said: There are no new U.S. proposals. There are what were called additional clarifications. As a matter of fact, these are linguistic rather than substantive clarifications. As for substantive issues, we have not received any additional clarification, especially with regard to settlement, Jerusalem, and the right to self-determination. He added that there are no new elements in the U.S. position. As far as we are concerned, this position is virtually negative. We are awaiting substantive clarifications, he noted.

'Abd-Rabbuh wondered: Why cannot the principles announced by President George Bush serve as bases to govern the peace conference? We want them—the Americans—to implement what they announced. He was referring to the following statement Bush previously made: "Read my lips." Right now, we would like to read his lips and see if the outcome corresponds well with the declaration he made.

'Abd-Rabbuh said: We will not be responsible for any negative results. The other parties would be responsible for any negative results of the peace conference. He added that the PNC and the PLO agree to participation in the peace process. We made positive contributions to facilitate the peace process, launched practical initiatives, and took practical steps to render the peace process a success, he added. In our capacity as a major party to the peace process, we have the right to obtain adequate guarantees regarding our national rights, he noted.

Concluding his statements, he said: If the required guarantees are not obtained, the parties sponsoring the peace process, particularly the United States, will be responsible for the ensuing negative results.

Delegation To Meet With Baker

LD2409092691 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
0600 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, will continue its meetings today at the Palais des Nations at the Club de Pines for the second day in succession.

The session, which is being held behind closed doors, began yesterday and will continue for four days. This session, the 20th, is being held in the climate of preparations for the peace conference on the Middle East crisis, and discussion of this will dominate the session's work.

Meanwhile, a PLO spokesman has stated that a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories will meet shortly with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, either in New York or Washington. PNC spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman confirmed this report yesterday in a statement to the press on the sidelines of the PNC conference.

Here is a report from the radio mission which followed the work of the session:

The first day of the PNC's 20th session was adjourned at a late hour. A fierce dialogue took place inside the hall over the agenda which included the reading of the committees' reports.

The Executive Committee's political report which was read by Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] created a hot atmosphere inside the hall, prompting president Yasir 'Arafat to intervene frequently to clarify questions raised about the discussion of the report immediately after its reading. Interpolations concentrated on the importance and gravity of the political report.

The important thing is that the political report has drawn up the broad lines of the Palestinian moves and the many dialogues held with representatives of the U.S. Administration since the Reagan era and ending with the negative repercussions of the Gulf war on the Palestine question due to the Palestinian support for Iraq.

The report also pointed out that arising from the international changes and its victory in the Gulf war, the United States is anxious to find a solution for the Middle East crisis as dictated by the logic of the new world community which is moving toward a so-called new international order. The PLO cannot ignore the general trend for solving regional and local conflicts.

With regard to the peace conference, the political report said: We support the convening of a peace conference. For this reason, we have agreed that our brothers in the occupied territories should hold discussions with Baker so as not to create an opportunity to accuse us of being an obstacle in the way of peace initiatives.

[PFLP Secretary General] Dr. George Habash objected to the contents of the political report. He demanded an

immediate discussion of the report in view of the possible threat to the future of the Palestine question. Dr. Habash said nervously: They want to force us to enter the peace conference.

Replying to George Habash's interpolation, president Yasir 'Arafat said that the political report should be discussed by the Political Committee prior to its submission for discussion in the hall. Following a lengthy discussion, the matter ended with the continued reading of the committees' reports and the opening of the general debate after the completion of the committees' work.

We wish to point out that Dr. George Habash has registered his name as the first speaker in the debate on the political report.

Other committees that have completed reading their reports in the hall are: the committee for amending Article 14 of the PLO's Basic Constitution, and the Palestine National Council Committee.

We wish to mention also that Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman was appointed by the PNC as an official spokesman of the session. He held a press conference at which he made a statement to one of the journalists in response to a question about the general trend of the session. He said that the PNC is moving toward approval of participation in the peace conference.

This statement was criticized by someone in the hall, who pointed out that the PNC had not made any decision about what he described as a liquidation conference. He demanded that the session's official spokesman, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, should not be allowed to make any such statements before the PNC has made a decision on the matter.

[PNC Chairman] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayih promised him that he will investigate the matter and reply to him during Tuesday morning's session which will open at 1000 [0900 GMT].

Finally, we wish to mention that Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman stated at his press conference that contacts with the U.S. Administration have not stopped but have widened and deepened. He said that a meeting will be held shortly, probably within a week, in New York between James Baker and two Palestinian personalities: Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi.

Participants, Absentees Reported

LD2309145891 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic*
1200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to information obtained from the PNC session, we note that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] did not attend, nor did the Palestinian National Salvation Front with all its factions.

According to the information going around here, some personalities from the Islamic Jihad movement attended

only in an independent capacity. In the hall we noticed the presence of Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, DFLP chairman. We also would like to point out that some of the independent personalities who expressed the wish to submit their resignations from the PNC, including Dr. Edward Said and poet Mahmud Darwish, were not seen in the hall this morning.

Finally, we recall that this morning's session was adjourned 20 minutes ago, after Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghosali's address. The meetings will be resumed this evening.

A small item reached me just now: Journalists were requested just now to leave the hall in order for the meetings to be resumed in closed sessions. Therefore, this evening's session will be closed.

Hawatimah on DFLP Representation

JN2409101891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0900 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] In a statement to our radio station this morning, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, denied what was reported yesterday about a solution being reached regarding the DFLP's representation in the Palestine National Council through the so-called representation of the two wings of the DFLP. Nayif Hawatimah affirmed to our radio that the DFLP is represented in the PNC with all its organizational rights and that the DFLP dissidents—of which, he said, there are three—appear on the list of independent personalities.

Al-Fahum Explains PNSF Boycott

NC2109131691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT
21 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Sep (MENA)—Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) and former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), has stated the Front is boycotting the PNC meetings scheduled to open in Algiers on Monday (23 September) because the PLO leadership is disregarding a large number of Palestinian factions by failing to invite them to the PNC session. In addition, he said, the PLO leadership insisted on not holding the comprehensive preparatory dialogue which the PNSF had called for to clear inter-Palestinian relations.

In an interview with the newspaper SAWT AL-KUWAYT published today, al-Fahum hoped a dialogue will be held after the PNC meetings, provided its resolutions are correct and in harmony with the Palestine National Charter. Al-Fahum added that in his view, the PNC resolutions would be correct if they stressed the need to insist on the right of return, self-determination, establishment of an independent state, the need to avoid attending the peace conference in a joint delegation with any party, and that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Al-Fahum believes that it is now not feasible for a just, comprehensive, and durable solution for the Palestinian issue because the Arab nation is divided and weak, as he put it. He added, however: We should go to the peace conference and insist on our inalienable and just rights.

The PNSF leader praised U.S. President George Bush's decision to postpone considering Israel's request for loan guarantees from U.S. banks, describing it as positive. He noted that the Palestinians want to establish good relations with the United States, which he said needs to adopt a neutral and objective stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

PNSF Urges Rejection of U.S. Proposal

JN2109183391 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab
Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] of a statement "read by Khalid al-Fahum, Palestine National Council speaker and head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front," PNSF, at the conclusion of a meeting of the PNSF leadership held "this morning," place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The Palestine National Salvation Front has met and studied the overall Palestinian developments, including the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers. In this context, the PNSF would like to emphasize and clarify the following points:

The formation of the present PNC has not taken place through a real dialogue leading to a political and organizational agreement and true national unity—the proposals advocated by the PNSF in its initiative on 8 April 1991, and asserted by the PNSF on 22 August 1991, given that there was no real response to this initiative by the influential PLO leadership.

The insistence on convening the PNC and forming it in this authoritarian, irresponsible manner—ignoring the PNSF initiatives, which called for a comprehensive dialogue leading to the formation of a new PNC symbolizing all factions, forces, and representatives of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, to achieve real unity for our people and for their representation inside and outside the occupied territories through the unified PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—means persistence in the determination not to achieve Palestinian national unity and the determination to make political decisions unilaterally in the context of offering gratis concessions, as the situation has been in the recent years. This has harmed the Palestinian cause and the rights of its people, the intifadah, the PLO, and its unity.

The responsibility of protecting the Palestine question from liquidation, and opposing the conspiracies targeted at the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, can never be maintained without establishing true Palestinian national unity absorbing all the forces of the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland. The

PNSF, therefore, affirms that the PNC in its present formation does not represent all the factions and forces of the Palestinian people, and that this makeup reflects a lack of responsibility and aims to serve narrow political objectives.

For this reason, the PNSF announces its rejection of this makeup and calls for re-forming the PNC, after a comprehensive national dialogue, as stated in its initiative on 8 April 1991, so as to ensure representation of all the Palestinian people and their unity inside and outside the occupied homeland and protect their cause and inalienable national rights and the PLO's unity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The PNSF also discussed the U.S. proposals and the so-called guarantees being discussed by the Algiers PNC, in relation to settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the issue of Palestine. In this context, the PNSF affirms the following:

These U.S. proposals strike at the unity of the Arab cause and the unity of Arab struggle against the Zionist aggression.

These U.S. proposals do not meet the minimum level of Palestinian and Arab national rights, represented in the need for full, unconditional withdrawal of the Zionist

occupation forces from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories, primarily holy Jerusalem. These proposals also deny the Palestinian people the right to repatriation, self-determination on their land, and the establishment of their independent state. These proposals, moreover, deny the unity of Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories and the unity of their representation through the PLO.

While rejecting these U.S. proposals, the PNSF warns those meeting in Algiers against being involved in accepting these proposals and calls on them to reject the proposals clearly, because they contradict with the resolutions adopted by Arab and international legitimacy, in addition to all what has been mentioned above.

The PNSF has struggled, and will continue to struggle, for real Palestinian unity in the framework of the unified PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, on the basis of adherence to the constants and objectives of Palestinian and Arab struggle. It also calls on all factions and forces to work to achieve that objective.

[signed] The PNSF.

[dated] 23 September 1991.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Polisario Leader Abdelaziz

LD2309165791 Algiers APS in Arabic 1500 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro].

Interior Minister on Security Recommendations

LD2309222291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Interview with Interior Minister Abdellatif Rahhal by correspondent Anissa Mahdi; date and place not given—live or recorded; first paragraph announcer-read introduction]

[Text] The state of siege will be lifted, but the higher security council seems to be drawing lessons from the events of May and June by making three recommendations, all of which deal with strengthening security. How? Anissa Mahdi has explanations from Interior Minister Rahhal.

[Mahdi] The first recommendation deals with the introduction of a bill permitting civilian authorities to have recourse to the armed forces in exceptional situations that might call into question the security of citizens, property, public order, and the functioning of public services. Mr. Rahhal, this recommendation seems to be inconsistent with the lifting of the state of siege. What is the position?

[Rahhal] This lifting of the state of siege raises a certain number of fears in certain sectors of the population because people imagine that the Army will now return to barracks, and perhaps that threat still weighs on the security of their person and property. In order to prevent such cases and in order not to have to resort to a state of siege and to exceptional measures, we recommended—in short the higher security council recommended—to the head of state that he should tell the government to prepare a bill to be presented to the Assembly, through which the civilian authorities could, if needed, call upon the armed forces to help the security forces keep order, that is if serious breaches of public security arose. If the forces at the disposal of the civilian authorities were not entirely in a position to cope with this, those civilian authorities would have the right to ask the armed forces to help them cope with such a situation.

[Mahdi] The second recommendation deals with the introduction of modifications to the law on public demonstrations. Mr. Interior Minister, what will these modifications be concerned with?

[Rahhal] The plan to modify this law has not yet been finalized, but in short it consists of simply demanding

that the organizers of demonstrations on public highways meet a certain number of conditions to ensure that public order is not disturbed. The current law allows demonstrations on public highways after simply informing the local authorities, in particular the wilayat, and of indicating the route and itineraries of the demonstrations due to take place. The plan, which is due to be prepared, will all the same have to add a certain number of conditions for the organizers of such demonstrations to ensure that public order is in no case threatened and, at any rate, to identify the responsibilities in the case of a breach of public order.

[Mahdi] The third recommendation deals with strengthening measures taken to ensure the observance of the regulations on the movement of people and property on the borders. What will be these measures be and might this imply that a problem of vigilance has arisen on our borders?

[Rahhal] Yes, one might think that if we have made this recommendation it is because we have noted a weakness in surveillance at our border, but in fact that is not the case. It is because, since Algeria has been going through a slightly difficult period, the surveillance of our borders has shown the effects of this, and it is for that reason that we have experienced the problems in the south, about which everyone is aware. But there are also problems—not of the same nature, nor of the same size, nor of the same seriousness—all along our borders. So, as the problem of our borders was discussed during this session held by the higher security council, there was a recommendation relating to this particular point, recommending to the security forces and to the armed forces that they should strengthen the surveillance of our borders. This need does not mean negligence; it simply means that, in the current situation, where we are going through an economic crisis, a political crisis, a social crisis, where we have a fair number of problems inside the country, our vigilance should not be relaxed as far as the borders are concerned. On the contrary, this is the time to demonstrate vigilance on the borders of our country as well as inside.

Egypt

Musa Discusses Settlements, Peace Process

NC2409080691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed that building Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories runs counter to UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the Geneva Conventions, which prevent any state occupying another's land from deciding the future of that territory.

Musa, who is currently attending the UN General Assembly session in New York, said that Israel's claims

that it has the right to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories have been rejected by the international community.

In a statement that will appear in AL-AHRAM newspaper tomorrow, the foreign minister said that the Arab countries consider the settlements illegitimate, while the United States considers them an obstacle to the peace process. He said that the Arabs and the United States agree in their rejection of the settlement policy, because, if these settlements continue to be built, it would destroy the peace process. Musa said that President Mubarak has officially proposed halting the settlement building process in return for ending the Arab boycott of Israel, because the settlements are only making things worse.

The foreign minister went on to say that Israel turned down this proposal. Musa, however, expressed the hope that Israel will respond and will stop building the settlements during the peace conference. He said that the U.S. has a principal role in this issue, because it is the one that proposed the peace initiative in the first place and because it has strong relations with Israel.

Touching on the issue of Jerusalem, Musa said that the United States believes that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and that it is one of the topics subject to negotiation. He added that the United States has rejected Israel's unilateral decision annexing East Jerusalem and noted that the negotiations over East Jerusalem are based on the land for peace principle.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that the Palestine National Council, which began its meetings in Algiers, will adopt resolutions that will advance the peace process. He added: We have confidence in the Palestinian people's wisdom, leadership, and representatives, and we hope that they will take all the recent developments and the changes in the international system into consideration to avoid any setback in the peace and negotiating process. Musa said that the present opportunity might not be repeated.

Omani Minister Arrives With Sultan's Message

NC2309110191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo today on a visit of several days.

He stated that he is bringing a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman for President Husni Mubarak. He said this visit falls within the continuous consultation between Sultan Qabus and his brother President Husni Mubarak and deals with the two leaders' interest in current Arab and regional issues.

The Omani minister said he will learn President Mubarak's views on certain issues, noting that the two leaders' views are always close for the good of Arab and

Islamic nations. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif greeted the Omani minister at the airport.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2309112191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif attended the meeting.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Returns for Second Visit

NC1909212691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT
19 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 19 Sep (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, arrived in Cairo from Amman this evening after visiting Jordan for a few hours. While in Amman, 'Abbas consulted with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur about the Mideast peace process. During his visit to Cairo—the second in the last two days—Abu-Mazin will meet with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs.

When in Cairo on 17 September, Abu-Mazin held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa prior U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's arrival. On 18 September he met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid. Abu-Mazin's second visit to Cairo is part of the continuing consultations being held among Egyptian and Palestinians officials to prepare for the peace conference in the region.

President Mubarak Congratulates Saudi Arabia

NC2409102291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio
Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent a message of congratulations to Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and to the brotherly Saudi people on the occasion of the Saudi national day.

Mubarak said that Egypt considers the Saudi national day to be an Egyptian national day, for the two countries have very strong and solid ties. Mubarak underlined the mutual understanding that exists between the Egyptian and Saudi people, led by King Fahd, which became particularly clear during the war of Kuwait's liberation. Mubarak said that Egypt will never hesitate to support the brothers in Saudi Arabia under any circumstances, because brothers must provide one another with such support.

Musa, Soviet Counterpart Confer in New York
NC2309203491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT
 23 Sep 91

[Text] New York, 23 Sep (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with his Soviet counterpart, Boris Pankin, here today to discuss President Husni Mubarak's visit to Moscow on Friday and his talks with Soviet leaders. The ministers also conferred about the ongoing efforts to advance the Middle East peace process, discussing preparations that are underway to convene the international peace conference. The Soviet foreign minister's visit to Cairo in October was another topic of conversation.

The Egyptian and Soviet foreign ministers discussed regional problems as well, including Afghanistan and the U.S.-Soviet agreement to stop arms supplies to the combatant sides. The two ministers then discussed the nomination of Dr. Butrus Ghali to the post of the UN secretary general.

Inspection of Israeli Nuclear Facilities Demanded
NC2309154191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1341 GMT
 23 Sep 91

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reports today that Egypt is holding international, regional, and Arab contacts to seek an international inspection of the Israeli nuclear reactor. Egypt has officially notified the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China—in their capacity as the Security Council's five permanent members—of its position calling for an international inspection of the Israeli nuclear reactor. Egypt told these states of the need to inspect Israel's nuclear capabilities, programs, plans, and reactors before establishing any international arrangements for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction and for conventional arms control in the Middle East, in accordance with President Mubarak's initiative which seeks to free the region of these destructive weapons.

The paper adds that, in its contacts with these five states, Egypt stressed a number of principles and priorities that must be adopted before making any arrangements to eliminate the weapons of mass destruction and institute conventional arms control in the Middle East on the basis of equality and justice among all the region's countries.

The paper notes that these principles include the need to submit the Israeli nuclear programs and activities to international inspection and the need for Israel to sign the agreement banning nuclear proliferation, in accordance with the guarantees established by the Vienna-based Atomic Energy Agency. These principles also include the need to define each country's defense requirements according to its needs and to clearly specify the type of verification procedures to be followed and the

necessity of distinguishing between a country which exports weapons and one that participates in developing local weapons.

These principles and priorities also stressed each country's right to obtain the weapons it needs to maintain full deterrence so that these arrangements do not favor of one country in the region at the expense of the others and to ensure that the disarmament process is related to the Arab-Israeli peace process. Under these principles, the proposed arrangements must deal with weapons production before they address stockpiles, and the international community must be committed to applying the procedures that are adopted and to establish a mechanism to verify their implementation.

AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I adds that senior officials from the Egyptian Foreign Ministry and the U.S. State Department will meet next month in Cairo to continue the discussion on Egypt's position on regional disarmament and arms limitation.

Libya

'Source' on Disappearance of Shiite Cleric
LD2009111391 Tripoli JANA in English 0832 GMT
 20 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih [September] 20 (JANA/Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—An official source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation gave a statement to JANA asserting that Great Jamahariyah respects religious men and has every respect to our Shia brothers in Lebanon. "I felt deep regret for the disappearance of a Shia religious man following his departure from Great Jamahariyah in 1978..."

"Great Jamahariyah wishes to assert that it has nothing to do with this matter..."

"And at the time it confirms the good brotherly relations with the legitimate Lebanese Government and President Ilyas al-Hirawi. It absolutely rejects any claims from vindictive individuals who are linked with colonialism and Zionism."

Alleged Involvement in Terrorism Denied
LD2009221391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1445 GMT
 20 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Sep (JANA)—A survey of public opinion organized by the Press and Information Department of the French Armed forces and the SOFRES and BVA [Air Travel Office] institutions has reached the conclusion that the threat now lies in the South and not in the East. The result of the so-called French military establishment's survey reiterated that of the threats that worry the French at present, terrorism is first. The results of the opinion poll placed Libya among the countries that pose a threat in this regard.

The JANA International Affairs editor has commented on the opinion poll that was organized by an official French institution. He said it is strange to see the name of the Great Jamahiriya embroiled in a matter which it has repeatedly condemned. He added that the Great Jamahiriya has declared on numerous well known occasions its denunciation of terrorism and its various means. The editor pointed out that the Great Jamahiriya bases its actions on ideological and cultural values that constantly call for the crystallization of the Jamahiri democratic model. These values conflict in their essence with any form of terrorism.

A series of laws were promulgated in the Great Jamahiriya recently calling for respect of man's status as a human being and his freedom. These laws are now in force in the Great Jamahiriya.

Concluding, the JANA International Affairs editor said it is strange to see some circles persist in accusing the Great Jamahiriya of terrorism. We hope through our continuous calls that members of the human race will cooperate in crystallizing the spirit of social peace, cooperation, and building among the nations and peoples so that we may all succeed, through our collective efforts, in entrenching the spirit of good, love, and harmony among the peoples, away from the arrogance of aggression and racial discrimination, and making social justice the true criterion for the lives of peoples so that we may lay down the foundation for a civilization based on justice, amity, and reason.

Role in Downing of French Plane Denied

LD2309090291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0742 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Sep (JANA)—The JANA political editor has commented on the ferocious campaign concerning the [1989] crash of the French UTA company's DC-10 to which the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was being subjected. He said that campaign of falsification was being fanned by some quarters hostile to Arabs and Muslims, constituting racism and spite directed against the Libyan-Arab people.

The editor said that Libya, which sympathizes with the victims' families and has condemned all terrorist operations aimed at innocent civilians, stresses that it does not accept these charges, (?refuses) to be forced into involvement in these issues, for its people and history's reputation to be distorted or its sovereignty harmed by hired pens, and that it is capable of making its voice reach all the honorable [people] in the world.

The editor said that those quarters should look for the true villain and seek the truth in a responsible and objective way, because Libya had nothing whatsoever to do with incidents like that. The editor asked: Why has Libya in particular been accused at this particular time and of this specific incident?

Official Views Illegal African Immigration

LD1709183991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1520 GMT
17 Sep 91

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Sep (JANA)—The secretary general of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has conferred here with the African ambassadors accredited to the Great Jamahiriya.

The brother secretary general welcomed the African ambassadors pointing out the importance of holding such meetings every now and then to discuss and exchange views about the Great Jamahiriya's relations with the African countries and the means to develop them and to overcome any obstacles in their way. In this context, he pointed to the confusion some media organs have tried to stir up concerning the deportation of some African citizens from Great Jamahiriya because they did not satisfy the legal conditions for entering the country.

In this context, he emphasized that Libya welcomes brother Africans who enter the country legally whether for work, study, visit or any similar purpose. As everyone notices, these people are in the Jamahiriya and have the necessary securities, including work opportunities. In some cases, however, it is necessary to deport some foreigners who enter Libya through infiltration or who do not satisfy the conditions for residence, in order to avoid the possible social, health, and other problems which could result from such illegal residence.

He stressed that these measures apply to all foreigners who do not satisfy the correct legal procedures and are not restricted to the citizens of a certain country. Moreover they are applied as narrowly as possible to the citizens of African countries.

He referred to the claims, which accompanied this biased campaign, that Libya is training some elements for actions that violate the security and stability of some countries. He said that these claims are completely unfounded, and rejected them in part and in whole. He expressed regrets that some African media organs and newspapers have been dragged into propagating claims previously put forward by some foreign media hostile to African unity and solidarity.

He added that the Great Jamahiriya considers it against the interests of African countries to be dragged by others into an unjustifiable media war, and it does not wish to be dragged into such a war. Therefore, the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation prefers to deal with the issue through directly contacting the African countries, and this is the Libyan aim of this meeting.

He said that if anyone had any ideas different from these explanations or had any doubts, then the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation is ready to discuss these ideas and doubts and to submit the necessary explanations about them.

In concluding his address to the African ambassadors, the secretary general stressed that the Great Jamahiriyyah is committed to continuing to develop its relations with the African countries and to cooperate with them in serving the aims and principles specified in the OAU charter.

At the meeting, the Ghanaian ambassador, doyen of the African diplomatic corps, spoke. He praised the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison's initiative in inviting the African ambassadors to the meeting. He also welcomed the explanations given concerning the issues discussed at the meeting. He said that in the name of his colleagues, the African ambassadors, he could say that dealing with matters in such a constructive way is the best way to develop relations with the African countries and that his colleagues, the Ambassadors will convey the explanations to their governments and by thus do their duty in presenting a true picture and contributing to the consolidation of fraternal relations among the countries of Africa.

Western Sahara

Morocco Accused of Violating Cease-Fire

LD2209022391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] For the third consecutive day, Morocco has violated the cease-fire declared in Western Sahara on 6 September.

This was stated in a Saharan Information Ministry communique datelined Bir Lahlou, which was received by the Algerian News Agency APS yesterday [21 September].

The communique added that at 1255 GMT yesterday, Saturday, Moroccan military aircraft flew over Mijek in southeastern Western Sahara, where the UN flag is being flown. The Saharan communique went on to say that these irresponsible actions by Hassan II's government endanger the lives of the blue berets who are in the province, and also those of the Saharans.

UN Delegation Arrives in Elayoune

LD2209182691 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Elayoune, 22 Sep (MAP)—Johannes Manz, special representative of the UN secretary general in charge of Western Saharan affairs, has arrived in Elayoune leading a MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] delegation, including in particular the man who is going to replace him, Dhia Rayzafi, as well as a group of the members of the committee in charge of determining the identity of the people who will take part in the referendum which is to be held in the Western Saharan districts. [passage omitted]

It is to be recalled that during the last three days the number of military observers and officials in the MINURSO delegation has risen to 304 people, following their arrivals from Australia, Switzerland, the United States, Austria, Egypt, Ghana, France, and Canada. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Newspaper Calls for 'Arafat's Removal

LD2409083191 London KUNA in Arabic 1108 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Sep (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM called today for the removal of 'Arafat from the PLO chairmanship and said that "such a decision should be definite, decisive, and firm today as the Palestine National Council convenes in Algiers to decide the fate of the [PLO] Executive Committee."

The paper said there is no need for hesitation in deciding to remove 'Arafat since it was he who ruined the Palestinian cause for personal ambitions. This highlights the need for a quick, decisive decision now that more people are opposing him.

The paper explained that 'Arafat has harmed the Palestinian cause at a time when it was in dire need of support, and that he ventured with personal opinions by challenging the will of the international community, which supported Kuwait. Consequently, the international community has become duty-bound to remove him and call for his deposition.

The paper concluded by stressing that: "It is necessary to dot the i's and cross the t's and remove 'Arafat from the position of leadership, because there is a growing number of people who are demanding his removal, both among the Arabs and the Palestinians themselves."

Yemen

Prime Minister, Iranian Minister Meet

JN2109184291 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Atas has received visiting Iranian Minister of Construction Jihad, brother Gholam Reza Foruzesh, and his delegation. They talked about cooperation in various areas between the two brotherly states. The brother prime minister stressed the importance of reinforcing and broadening bilateral ties. He expressed hope that the planned joint committee will fulfill its mission and advance cooperation in the interest of the two brotherly peoples. The Iranian minister also pointed out the importance of developing all-around ties in the interest of the Muslim peoples of the two countries. He further stressed the need to explore possibilities for cooperation in economic, technical, and cultural domains. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Talks Detailed

JN2109194691 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Brothers Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman, minister of housing and urban planning, and Iranian Minister of

Construction Jihad Gholam Reza Foruzesh began talks at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning this morning. Brother Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman began by welcoming the Iranian minister and his colleagues. He then said that our country is willing to boost bilateral cooperation and coordination in the areas of oil, culture, information, road construction, public health, and the environment. They also explored the possibilities for launching joint ventures in construction and an exchange of expertise in various fields. Meanwhile, brother Gholam Reza Foruzesh said he was glad to be visiting our country and grateful for the warm reception accorded him and his delegation. The Iranian minister said that his visit to our country happily coincides with the Prophet Muhammad's birthday and the 29th anniversary of the September Revolution. He emphasized that the visit provides an opportunity to discuss bilateral cooperation in various domains.

The two sides then addressed the topics listed on the agenda of the session, with both ministers noting the importance of staging trade fairs featuring different agricultural goods and fish products. The two sides then agreed to form committees to handle and plan cooperation in various areas between the two sides.

Attending the talks for Yemen were brothers Qasim 'Abd-al-Rabb, parliamentary deputy; Ahmad al-Ashmali, under secretary at the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning; along with officials from the Ministries of Agriculture and Water Resources, Planning, Foreign Affairs, and Planning and Development; and a representative from the Chambers of Commerce. For Iran, the talks were attended by brothers (Hashem Bin-Hashemi), a Majles member; officials of the Iranian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry, Agriculture, and Fisheries, and the Union of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

President Meets Iranian Minister

JN2209140891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Presidential Council chairman, brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has received brother Gholam Reza Foruzesh, Iranian minister of construction jihad and head of the Iranian side to the Yemeni-Iranian joint committee, who is currently visiting our country.

The Iranian minister conveyed to the president a message from his brother Iranian President 'Ali Hashemi-Rafsanjani, containing his greetings to the brother president and congratulations on the occasions of the prophet's birthday and the 29th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution. The message also includes the Iranian president's wishes for further prosperity and progress to our people, and further development of relations between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Official Responses to U.S. Statements Reported

Prime Minister Rejects 'Threats'

JN2309145291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that the government's program of action will be based on comrade leader Saddam Husayn's address and directives to the 10th Regional Congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Congress of Jihad and Construction, and the resolutions of that congress.

In a statement to be published by BABIL tomorrow, Tuesday, the prime minister said his government's task is not easy, but the main objective at this stage, as leader President Saddam Husayn stressed at the congress, is the citizens' well-being, happiness, and security. Mr. al-Zubaydi stressed the need for the government to play its full role in economic life with a view toward serving the nation and achieving economic stability for citizens. He said discussions on the constitution have been completed, some amendments introduced, and the necessary measures will be taken. This also applies to the new press law that was discussed by the leadership and will soon be brought forward, he said.

On Iraqi-Arab and Iraqi-international relations, the prime minister said that we are eager to have normal relations with everybody to serve the high interests of our people and peace in the region and the world. In pursuance of this policy, contacts with Iran are continuing: An Iraqi delegation visited Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian Government, and an Iranian delegation will soon visit Iraq to continue talks to bolster and promote bilateral ties on the bases of good neighborliness and noninterference in internal affairs.

The prime minister condemned the horrible crime perpetrated by the U.S. forces when they buried Iraqi soldiers alive. He said we are currently holding contacts with the International Committee of the Red Cross and other international organizations concerning this brutal act, which exposes the aggressive nature of the United States and the false U.S. and Western allegations about human rights.

Mr. Muhammad Hamzah rejected U.S. threats to Iraq and said the United States concocts ingenious pretexts and excuses to prolong the unjust economic blockade against our people. We must be on the alert at every moment and every minute, he said.

Further on Prime Minister's Remarks

JN2409083691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT
24 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Sep (INA)—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has affirmed that the United States is using pretexts to prolong the economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and to perpetrate inhuman and aggressive acts against its people.

In statements to the newspaper BABIL published here today, Muhammad Hamzah urged vigilance against the U.S. anti-Iraqi conduct and condemned the U.S. forces' horrendous crime of burying Iraqi troops alive. He added: We are currently making moves with the International Committee of the Red Cross, and other international organizations against this bestial act, which exposes the U.S. campaign of aggression and its false human rights slogans.

Al-Zubaydi referred to Iraqi-Arab and Iraq-international ties, saying: We are eager to normalize ties with everyone to serve our people's higher interests and to promote peace in the region and the world. He added: We are in contact with Arab states and are ready to resume ties with any country that desires to do so.

The prime minister indicated that there are also contacts with other non-Arab countries in this regard. In line with this approach, bilateral contacts with Iran continue, he added.

Al-Zubaydi denied any intention to reshuffle the cabinet at present after former Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi was relieved of his post after he had failed in the 10th regional congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. He said that discussions on the new constitution are almost complete, that some amendments have been incorporated into it, and that the proper measures will be taken in this regard. He affirmed that some issues were left unaddressed during the previous period because of preoccupation with election conferences in party ranks and the convocation of the 10th regional party congress.

Muhammad Hamzah said that no applications for the formation of new political parties have been submitted since the parties law went into effect. He reviewed the tasks of the government at this phase, and affirmed the need for the state to play its role in full with regard to economic life in order to serve the people's interests and achieve their happiness, welfare, and security. He added that a decision halting the sale of state institutions to the private sector has been issued.

Foreign Minister: Threats 'Unacceptable'

JN2309151691 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has stressed the need for the UN Security Council to give special attention, using a balanced standard, to the security and safety of all UN member states. In a statement to the INA correspondent in New York, he said it is necessary that the Security Council use a single standard to achieve world peace and security. He was indignant about threats against Iraq by the states dominating the Security Council. Frequent as they are, he said, the threats constitute exposed and unacceptable blackmail of the Iraqi people and the sons of the Arab nation.

The foreign minister said he gave an elaborate account to the Security Council president during their meeting last

night on Iraq's great cooperation with the UN inspection teams. He said he discussed the bases of cooperation between the two sides.

After his meeting with the Security Council president, the foreign minister said that while Iraq is eager to cooperate with international quarters, it is also ardent on its sovereignty and national security.

Reportage on UN Inspection Activities

Prevented From Leaving Building

NC2309134791 Paris AFP in English
1340 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 23 (AFP)—Iraqi soldiers on Monday prevented a United Nations mission of nuclear experts from leaving a building where it had seized documents, a U.N. source reported.

The mission, which arrived Sunday, demanded that its members be allowed to leave the building, which houses the headquarters of the Iraqi Trade Union Movement, the source added.

INA Refutes 'Distorted Reports'

JN2309194291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1912 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—Iraq has refuted the distorted reports which claimed that Iraqi authorities have prevented the sixth nuclear inspection team from taking possession of certain documents.

An official Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA that foreign media have today carried distorted reports claiming that Iraqi authorities have prevented the sixth nuclear inspection team, currently in Baghdad, from possessing certain documents and that Iraq has thus violated its commitments in accordance with the provisions of Resolution 687.

The spokesman explained that this morning, 23 September 1991, the sixth nuclear inspection team went to inspect one of the buildings in Baghdad, accompanied by a specialized Iraqi team.

The spokesman added that after they had entered the building and examined some documents, the inspection team asked to obtain some of these documents. The Iraqi authorities agreed to this request, provided that the receipt and delivery of documents was documented.

The spokesman went on to say: It becomes clear, therefore, that the Iraqi authorities did not prevent the inspection team from obtaining the required documents, but only asked that this process be organized and documented in the record. The spokesman noted that this is one of the Iraqi authorities' rights so as to prevent the possibility of slipping in false documents or papers and then attributing them to Iraq as part of the documents

taken by the inspection team, which would allow some tendentious parties to come out and make false accusations against Iraq.

This is all the Iraqi side has requested. The inspection team, however, refused this Iraqi request, which is a right originally agreed upon with all inspection teams. This is the usual practice when the inspection teams wish to obtain documents or equipment.

Concluding, the official Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Iraq wants to stress that the documents requested by the inspection team are available in the building, and the team can take what it wants from those documents after a delivery voucher, signed by the inspection team and the concerned Iraqi side, has been arranged.

'Most Secret' Papers Not Handed Over

AU2409105791 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT
24 Sep 91

[Text] Vienna, Sept 24 (AFP)—Iraq failed to hand over the most secret documents on its nuclear potential to experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), IAEA spokesman David Kyd said here Tuesday.

He said the Iraqis had handed over to U.N. investigators overnight from Monday to Tuesday cartons full of documents but not the ones which had "the most secret" information on the country's nuclear potential, Kyd said.

Sophisticated Weapons Program Exists

AU2409103191 Paris AFP in English 0913 GMT
24 Sep 91

[Text] London, Sept 24 (AFP)—United Nations experts are certain that Iraq has plans for a sophisticated weapons program but so far lack proof of ongoing experiments, spokesman David Kyd for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said. Kyd, who was interviewed in Vienna by BBC television, said the Iraqis "were not just developing enriched uranium for peaceful purposes, but really have a weapon program in mind and a program which is fairly sophisticated."

"We discovered a uranium enrichment plant and we also found where they are separating plutonium," but U.N. experts have "no tenable evidence in the field of experimentation in, for example, high explosive research," he said.

The spokesman said the next stage for U.N. inspectors in Iraq is to "find the installations where experimentations are going on."

Though the Iraqis have largely worked alone in their production of weapons, they have had "help from outside" in the enrichment of uranium, he said.

He also stressed the difficulty for U.N. experts working in Iraq, after the announcement by French, U.S. and

U.N. diplomats on Monday that Iraqi authorities had detained a U.N. team of experts for about 10 hours and seized documents the experts had found showing that Iraq was conducting a covert nuclear weapons program.

Officers Said Executed After New Coup Attempt

*NC2009160991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Sep 91*

[Text] The defeated tyrant's regime has executed 14 high-ranking officers following the failure of a new coup against it.

According to the Voice of Iraq bulletin [nashrat sawt al-'Iraq], the coup attempt was engineered by high-ranking Army officers and took place near the Presidential Palace. It was foiled at the last moment, and a number of the coupists were executed outside the Presidential Palace.

This coup attempt is but one in a series of similar operations which have been staged against the tyrant's regime since its abortive adventure in Kuwait.

Rebels Reportedly Kill Pro-Saddam Tribal Chiefs

*NC2309155791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq
in Arabic 1425 GMT 23 SEP 91*

[Text] Following the rebellious people's verdict calling for the punishment of those who have collaborated with criminal Saddam, the death sentence has been carried out against the head of the 'Isa tribe and other tribal chiefs in al-Musayyib District. These criminals had permits to carry weapons in order to hunt down the struggler sons of various rebellious tribes.

Government Forces Persecuting Khanaqin Citizens

*NC2309191391 (Clandestine) Voice of the People
of Kurdistan in Arabic 1710 GMT 23 Sep 91*

[Text] Iraqi authorities have resumed their persecution of the citizens of Khanaqin, arresting and intimidating them in numerous ways.

Each day authorities continue to surround the city and launch large-scale search and destroy operations.

Some time ago, a large government force surrounded the city and indiscriminately arrested 500 citizens, onlookers became angry and attacked the government force. In the ensuing clashes, citizen Qays 'Ali was martyred by government forces. Two soldiers were also killed.

The government forces treated the body of the martyr disgracefully, dragging it along the city streets and alleys and leaving it naked on the roadside.

On 20 September, government forces surrounded the Hayy al-'Ummal, Agha, and Khalifan neighborhoods and carried out a wide-scale search campaign, arresting a number of citizens and opening fire on Sardar Majid, killing him.

'Iranian Cease-Fire Violations' Protested

*JN2309200391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT
23 Sep 91*

[Text] New York, 23 Sep (INA)—Iraq today strongly denounced the repeated Iranian cease-fire violations and held Iran fully responsible for the results of its aggressive actions, which constitute clear violations of international law and principles of good neighborliness.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said in a memorandum, presented to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, that on 23 and 25 August 1991 Iran shelled the areas of Shanakhsha, Mirwah Tabasni [as received], and Kanaru in the northern sector inside Iraqi territory, causing the death of a girl, a woman, and her child and the destruction of a trailer.

Iraq asked the secretary general of the international organization to take all appropriate measures, in accordance with the rules and principles of the UN Charter, so as to prevent the recurrence of these aggressive actions by Iran in the future.

Shamir on Bush's UN Address, New Settlement

TA2309201791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2000 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that President Bush's address at the United Nations, in which he called for the repeal of the resolution equating Zionism with racism, was moving, impressive, and very convincing. The prime minister was addressing a crowd of nearly 5,000 pro-Zionist Christians who came here for a two-week convention.

The prime minister added that he sees no reason why there should be opposition to the establishment of Tzur Yig'al. Replying to a question, he emphasized that he believes the Green Line does not really exist. This was reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem.

Repeal Has No Bearing on Process

TA2409054991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0500 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Report by Ya'akov Rosenberg]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir expressed satisfaction with President Bush's call to rescind the 1975 UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, I can say only that the speech of the President of the United States was very meaningful and inspiring, and I was delighted to listen to it. [end recording]

But the prime minister, speaking to reporters after giving a speech at Jerusalem's Binyaney Ha'uma, stressed that any repeal of the UN resolution was correcting an historical injustice and had no bearing on the current Middle East peace process.

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, I would not say it is something to do with the political developments of today, but nevertheless, it is a very beautiful and inspiring speech. [end recording]

Earlier, Shamir welcomed more than 4,000 evangelical Christian pilgrims and praised their support for Israel. He said the past year has been full of miracles, such as the collapse of communism and the wave of Jewish immigration from the USSR and Ethiopia. Shamir said he was pleased that Christians were expressing solidarity with Israel in Jerusalem, which he said would remain the nation's united capital forever. The prime minister told the pilgrims that Israel would do everything necessary to achieve true peace without endangering national security, and he urged the Christians to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, a call that was met with a huge standing ovation.

[The radio later adds: "Foreign Minister David Levi also had praise for President Bush's stand against the UN resolution. He told our reporter that the President's

comments were natural and expressed the best values shared by the United States, Israel, and other enlightened countries."]

Herzog Sees Step Toward Reconciliation

TA2409062691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0600 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has expressed satisfaction with President Bush's call to revoke the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism, which he regards as a step toward reconciliation between Israel and the United States. President Herzog, who was Israel's ambassador to the United Nations when the resolution was passed, told Qol Yisra'el that the resolution bears major significance for the Jewish people.

Editorial Questions Timing

TA2409095991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 24 Sep 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Good for Whom?"]

[Text] Had President Bush issued his call to the UN General Assembly to revoke the resolution equating Zionism with racism at any other time, it would have been welcome. Not at this time.

The President needs to prove that he is not battling with Israel or the Jews of his country. His aides found a way to prove this through the "initiative" to revoke the UN Assembly's 1975 resolution.

That resolution did not besmirch Zionism; it besmirched only the United Nations, which provided the stage for the resolution's endorsement. Zionism will gain absolutely nothing by the revocation of the resolution. Zionism, which has survived the resolution, and Zionists, who have lived with it, will remain unchanged.

At this time, we would be perfectly justified in fearing that this U.S. initiative will lead to an attempt to upgrade the UN representation at the regional peace conference, and that will mean more pressure on Israel.

Arens Sees 'Some Tension' in 'Solid' U.S. Ties

TA2309203591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
2000 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says that we will not freeze the settlement activity, because it is impossible to freeze our right to the land. We will continue our activity, even if it costs us the U.S. loan guarantees, he said. He claimed that the price we will have to pay if we do not receive the guarantees will simply be a higher interest rate. If necessary, we will weather that, too; we have already withstood tougher things, said the defense minister. He expressed his view that the Americans will not impede other aid to Israel.

Speaking to our correspondent Karmela Menashe, Minister Arens admitted that there is some tension between

Israel and the United States, but he added that some people ignore the fact that relations between the two countries are solid.

As for the incident on Mount Hermon in which three terrorists were killed last night in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit, Arens said that it is not clear whether the terrorists had come from Syria or Lebanon. Either way, there are some groups in the Arab world, and especially among the Palestinians, who will spare no effort to sabotage the peace process through terrorism.

Minister Arens was speaking during a tour of the Armored Corps display at Malkhey Yisra'el Square in Tel Aviv.

Palestinians Appeal to UN on PNC Participation

TA2309184591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1800 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Personalities from the territories held a news conference in East Jerusalem today and called on the United Nations to intervene and force Israel to allow members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] to depart for Algeria to participate in the PNC conference. 'Ali Abu-Hilal, the returned deportee, was among the participants in the news conference.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that according to East Jerusalem press reports, 186 residents of the territories are secret members of the PNC.

IDF Patrol Kills Lebanese Resident

TA2309121491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit on an armored personnel carrier patrol in the eastern sector of south Lebanon last night fired at a suspicious car that was approaching. A resident of south Lebanon was killed by the fire; another was wounded and taken by helicopter to a hospital. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

Victim Was Druze Shaykh

TA2309162691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] A delegation of senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers came to the Druze village of Hasbayya in southern Lebanon today to apologize and explain the circumstances of the incident yesterday in which Shaykh Faris Badawi, a Druze notable and the father of the commander of the SLA's [South Lebanese Army] Druze battalion, was killed. The IDF officers told the Druze leaders that the two shaykhs in the vehicle failed to park on the side of the road as they were instructed to do by the IDF soldiers. The officers reported that the possibility that the soldier who fired the shots did not act

properly is being examined. They said that every measure will be taken to prevent such cases from recurring. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht points out that the event shocked the Druze in southern Lebanon.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed on Syrian Border

TA2309153391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Three terrorists were killed in the Hermon area last night in a clash with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. Our forces sustained no casualties. The IDF spokesman reported that the terrorists came from the Syrian disengagement zone, which is under UN control, and were shot near the Syrian border. The three belonged to Nayif Hawatimah's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. They were found in possession of weapons, LAW [light antitank weapon] missiles, a handgun with a silencer, and other items.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe points out that the confrontation occurred near the area where a terrorist squad fired at an IDF outpost and killed a reserve soldier a little over two months ago.

Senior commanders from the UN contingent on the Golan arrived at the scene of the action this morning. One UN officer told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that his men are examining the terrorists' route to determine whether they had crossed an area under UN control.

Analyst Views Potential for Agreement on Golan

TA2209155491 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
22 Sep 91 p B2

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Golan Paradox"]

[Text] Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Syria has surprised Israel twice. The first surprise was when Hafiz al-Asad decided to send his troops to take part in the war against Iraq. Al-Asad was willing to take part in the destruction of the largest Arab power ever set up. His egoistic motives overcame his other interests. Unlike Saddam, al-Asad understood that the global and regional strategic setup had changed; he decided to adapt to this reality despite his difficulties in explaining the move on his domestic front.

From Washington's point of view, the Syrian decision to join the military coalition was significant not because of the quality of the Syrian forces, but because this decision provided the international coalition with Rejectionist Front legitimization. Furthermore, the establishment of the coalition entailed stationing thousands of nonbelievers on the Arab Peninsula, the cradle of Islam. Syria's act rescued it from political isolation and rewarded it with a significant amount of cash—more than \$2 billion in Swiss banks.

The second surprise was the positive reply to Secretary of State James Baker concerning the regional peace conference with Israel. Although several months earlier Israeli intelligence provided an evaluation that al-Asad would, apparently, join the peace process, for the Israeli public at large it was a surprise. The prime minister heard the intelligence reports, but he and his advisers found it hard to stomach the evaluation that Syria was about to change its ways and rejectionist habits. In this case, al-Asad's calculations indicated that he had nothing to lose if the peace process fails.

Washington stands closer to Damascus than to Jerusalem when it comes to several issues of principle, such as Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and other territories, UN Resolution 242, and the Lebanese question. Till the day al-Asad gave his reply to Baker, he expected the United States to provide him with unequivocal assurances that Israel would eventually withdraw at the end of the process. He did not get this, but was given another benefit: tacit U.S. agreement to his *de facto* takeover of Lebanon.

Al-Asad's positive reply to Baker was yet another move favorably accepted by the Americans. Even if in practical terms it does not mean that he has really taken the path of peace, he did lift the taboo against Jordan's and the Palestinians' entering negotiations with Israel. In the past, al-Asad strictly opposed separate arrangements, but once he gave his positive reply to Baker, he could no longer use this argument.

In Israeli eyes, Syria has for years been perceived solely in military terms. When dealing with only the military aspects of the conflict, it is only natural for the Israeli public to be exposed to high dosages of brainwashing. We have seen the conflict with this country as everlasting. We have often said that although al-Asad sticks to agreements he signs, we believe that—at the most—he would sign local agreements and will in no way allow a comprehensive political agreement with Israel which would put an end to the conflict between the two countries and nations once and for all.

Israel had good reasons to wallow in this one-track thinking. Damascus adopted an extremist line during most of the years of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It abetted terrorism (the U.S. Administration has yet to remove it from the list of terror-supporting countries) and blocked all efforts in the Arab world to reach comprehensive settlements with Israel. With one exception, in 1949 (described in great detail in Professor Itamar Rabinowitz' latest book "The Elusive Peace" ["Hashalom Shehamaq"]), when the dictator Husni Za'im suggested that he and Ben-Gurion meet for peace talks, Damascus has always stressed the need to resolve the conflict with Israel by force. Syria has always been the last of Israel's Arab neighbors to reach any kind of settlement with it. It was the last to sign the armistice agreement after the Israeli War of Independence, refused to send a representative to the Lausanne conciliation conference in 1949,

and, after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, failed, at the last minute, to show up at the Geneva conference.

Small wonder, therefore, that Israel's security concept since 1967 has been that it is impossible to withdraw from the Golan Heights. For years the very thought that the Golan could at any point in time serve as a bargaining chip in a peace settlement with Syria was virtually dismissed. As the peace treaty with Egypt and many other examples indicate, however, things can change even among seemingly eternal enemies. One need only glance at one public opinion poll, conducted by Hanokh Smith (and published by DAVAR on 6 September) [date as published], to realize that since June the percentage of Israelis who are prepared to make concessions on the Golan Heights in return for true peace and security assurances to Israel has increased from 28 to 34. In other words, even though nearly 54 percent of the public (according to that poll) believes that at the moment no part of the Golan Heights should be returned in exchange for peace, there may be surprises. The Golan Heights will yet return to the Israeli public agenda.

Before we delve into the issue of whether or not a compromise on the Golan Heights is at all possible, we ought by rights to point out some data that distinguish the Golan Heights from the other territories that were conquered in 1967. First, unlike the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights were nearly uninhabited when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] captured that area, with the exception of four Druze villages in the north, whose population remained. All the others, namely more than 100,000 people from many villages and the town of al-Qunaytirah, ran for their lives. That is why no *intifadah* broke out on the Golan Heights, even though a substantial number of Druze want Syria back. On the Golan Heights Israel faces no demographic pressure, although the number of Jewish settlers in the 32 settlements there does not exceed 12,000.

Second, despite the fact that the territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip form an integral continuation of Mandatory Eretz Yisra'el, they have not been annexed to sovereign Israel—not even by the Likud governments. On the Golan Heights, though, things were different. Israeli law and administration were applied to the Golan Heights in December 1981, even though it was Syrian territory conquered by Israel.

The Golan Heights Law was passed by a sweeping Knesset majority from the Likud, the Labor Party, and the center parties. One of then Prime Minister Menahem Begin's arguments in pushing for the law was Syria's persistent refusal to enter into any political negotiations with Israel. He said this one day after the publication in a Kuwaiti paper of an interview with al-Asad, in which he said that he would never recognize Israel, even if the Palestinians do. Today, following a decade in which the world has undergone so many major upheavals, the question is whether the situation in Syria has likewise changed.

Third, and just as important, is the fact that whereas in connection with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip it was the Likud and the right-wing parties that supported the establishment of scores of settlements, on the Golan Heights the Labor Party backed most of the settlement campaigns. There are even two kibbutzim on the Golan that are affiliated with Kibbutz Ha'artzi [MAPAM, United Workers Party, kibbutz movement]. MAPAM, the parent party, objects to settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and supports the establishment of a Palestinian state as part of a peace settlement.

This shows that where Syria is concerned, no one in Israel thought that the political circumstances could ever change. It also indicates the political mess in Israel with respect to the territories. Some of the larger parties are not prepared to apply the same criteria to all the territories when discussing their importance. When it suits them, they cite security criteria; when it does not, they ignore these factors. A case in point is the Labor Party. The first to rush to declare that Israel should not withdraw from the Golan Heights were two former chiefs of staff and current Labor Party leaders: Yitzhak Rabin (who later served as defense minister) and Mordechai Gur. At the same time, these statements should not be taken at face value. "Not withdrawing" does not mean opposition to some compromise with Syria. It would be more accurate to interpret this as readiness for a compromise in which Israel will hold on to certain areas on the Golan Heights and will not cede them altogether.

Various Labor Party subcommittees are currently formulating draft proposals in preparation for the party convention, in which a new and updated platform will be approved. One such subcommittee deals with the Golan Heights, and among its members are some well-known doves such as [former Justice Minister] Hayim Tzadok, who hold extremely moderate views about the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This subcommittee will suggest to the party plenum the following wording: "Israel views the Golan Heights as an area of great importance for its security and integrity. An IDF presence on the Golan Heights is essential for Israel's security even in times of peace. The IDF will consequently maintain defense and alert dispositions on the Golan Heights, as well as an area defense deployment for the Golan Heights settlements, as necessitated by the security requirements." This formula will most likely be adopted, meaning that the Labor Party does not object to a territorial compromise on the Golan Heights, provided that Israeli military presence can remain there. As for the future of the Israeli settlements, here the text is loose and vague. As a result, the impression is that the Labor Party wants to protect the Golan Heights, whereas the Likud and the right-wing parties defend the West Bank—and, to a lesser degree, also the Gaza Strip.

As the prospects of talks with Syria become more real, the argument will grow more heated, even though the discussion of the Golan Heights is not as ideologically, religiously, or historically loaded as is that of the West Bank. We should expect to hear, over and over again,

explanations about the military significance of the Golan Heights. It would therefore be beneficial to put things in some order.

The Golan Heights are indeed important from the military point of view, but this statement should be explained and itemized. The Golan Heights are, first of all, important for Israel in terms of an offensive, which is to say that they are an outstanding springboard into Syrian territory and the gates of Damascus, should Israel be attacked. If Israel decides to react with a counterattack to a Syrian offensive like the one in 1973, the best and preferred way would be to sit on the Golan Heights. From there Israel can threaten Syria's capital, which is only several dozen kilometers away. From the peak of Mount Hermon the IDF can survey Damascus and observe the Syrian military preparations over a wide area. Moreover, maintaining control over the Golan Heights guarantees that in case of war, Israel will be better equipped and could fight not on its own soil.

In other words, the Golan Heights are an important deterrent tool against Syrian aggression, if that should occur all of a sudden. The conclusion is that as long as no durable peace exists between Israel and Syria, Israel should not withdraw from the Golan Heights. At the same time, one should not ignore the fact that our hold on the Golan Heights prevents Israel and Syria from reaching an agreement. It is doubtful whether any peace agreement could ever be signed between these two countries as long as the Golan Heights are under Israeli rule. Even many years hence, there is the possibility that a new Syrian generation would not accept this as a fact and would launch a war over the Golan Heights. Israel's dilemma is whether to strive for that stable peace with Syria or live with the risk of war because we are holding on to Syrian territory.

The Golan Heights are admittedly important for Israel's defense, but we must not deduce from this that this is a matter of life and death. By comparison, the West Bank, for example, is located opposite targets in Israel of far greater importance than those opposite the Golan. Maintaining control over the Golan is important for the defense of the Galilee in the event of war. Not, as in the past, for the defense of the Hula Valley settlements at the foot of the Golan Heights, because Israel has meanwhile set up many settlements on the Golan Heights themselves. Thus, while the Golan Heights protect the Hula Valley settlements, they can still not defend the settlements on the Heights themselves. From a defensive point of view, Israel must hold on to the Golan Heights as long as there is no stable peace with Syria, but the question we are facing is whether it is possible to attain such a peace and what price Israel would be willing to pay for it.

If there is anything whose importance greatly exceeds the importance of holding on to the Golan Heights as a territorial protective belt, it is the defense of the water sources. Whereas the importance of the Golan as a protective buffer does not go beyond the operational

sphere, the water issue is a matter of strategic importance for Israel and affects its very existence. Only a handful of people can still recall that a withdrawal from the Golan Heights to the 1967 borders would mean that Syria would be sitting literally on the shores of Lake Tiberias. The border ran only 10 meters away from the lake's northeastern shore, and if the lake's water level recedes, as it has in recent years, the border would move even more. Additionally, Syria would then again control two of the sources of the Jordan River. Israel is unlikely to accept that. The sources of the Jordan River have already been the cause for one war: the Six-Day War. Consequently, even if Israel agrees to pull out of the Golan Heights as part of a peace agreement, it will have to present firm conditions regarding Lake Tiberias and the sources of the Jordan River. On this point it will not be able to return to the status quo ante.

It would be wrong to assume that a settlement with Syria could be limited merely to the issue of the Golan Heights. Even if, for the sake of this argument alone, we ignore the Palestinian issue, clearly no military deployment on the Golan Heights can be discussed without reference to the Syrians' military presence in Lebanon. This matter gained special importance after Syria and Lebanon signed a mutual defense pact, making it obvious that Damascus' control over all of Lebanon in general, and over Lebanon's Army and intelligence services in particular, is tighter. Even those who are prepared to reach a compromise with Syria that would force Israel to withdraw from all or most of the Golan Heights will not agree to let the Syrian Army meanwhile continue its deployment in Lebanon—and it matters not at all that this deployment is not taking place near the Israeli border itself. Israel and Syria had previously reached tacit understandings on "red lines" in Lebanon. Syria honored them, and the party that broke them was none other than Israel, back in 1982. As a result, the Syrian Army stationed its surface-to-air missiles in the Lebanese al-Biq'a. Those who aspire to a settlement on the Golan Heights must, therefore, take parallel action to obtain a comprehensive settlement in Lebanon.

The two issues are linked. From the military angle the settlement should be threefold: Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese. Lebanon is, naturally, entitled to sign defense pacts with Damascus, but if these mean Syrian military activity close to the Israeli-Lebanese border, then there is no room for talk of an Israeli pullout from the Golan Heights. Even an Israeli withdrawal from the IDF-held security strip in Lebanon, along the border, is connected to this comprehensive settlement. It thus follows that one of the conditions for the success of a settlement between Israel and Syria would be that Lebanon be a sovereign country, clear of all types of armed militias and free of Syrian military control. With this in mind, the question is whether an Israeli-Syrian settlement is possible. Can the two countries reach a settlement on the Golan Heights? The answer is yes. Without such a settlement there will ultimately be no way that a war—and not with Syria alone—can be avoided. As in every

settlement, one with Syria will also come with a price tag and attendant risks. In that case, the risks would be primarily to Israel. We will not here dwell on all the options and possibilities, but several principles for such a settlement should be stipulated.

First, because of the dangers to Israel, it will not be enough for al-Asad to declare suddenly that he has changed his policy. Every settlement involving the Golan Heights requires an extended trial period. The time span between the signing of the agreement and its full implementation is of extreme importance. The problem is that al-Asad does not think about peace arrangements with Israel in terms of a prolonged process. He wants to get all of the Golan Heights at once and, on his part, to offer at the most a state of nonbelligerency with Israel. In Egypt's case after the Camp David accords, a time frame for the arrangements in the Sinai was also set. It involved a relatively short period of time, but clearly with the Syrians that process would have to be longer.

Second, one of the options is to separate the issue of (Syrian) sovereignty over the area and its remaining under Israeli control for security reasons. The way to do that might be by leasing the area to Israel for a set period of time.

Third, the agreement should also include Lebanon as an integral part of the arrangements with Israel's neighbors to the north.

Fourth, it is necessary to devise a new and original "security package" on the Golan Heights and the Lebanese border. The Israelis are divided over the question of whether or not it is desirable for the United States to participate directly in monitoring the arrangement, as it does in the Sinai as part of the multinational force. Many military persons and others involved in security affairs are not sure that this arrangement would be a good one for Israel. At the same time, one cannot ignore the advantages of such an arrangement, either. Syria would hardly dare break it when the Americans are in the middle.

And finally, I cannot for one moment believe that an arrangement with the Syrians and Lebanon would be a kind of "second Camp David," one that would leave the Palestinians out. People had better not entertain such a thought, both because it is infeasible in this case, and because this is a sure recipe for the perpetuation of the conflict.

Group of Golan Druze Students Leaves for Syria

TA1909130991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
19 Sep 91 p 20

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Text] This week, 21 Druze youth left the Golan Heights for Syria in order to study at Syrian universities. This is the second group to commence studies in Syria since Israeli law was applied to the Golan Heights. Two years

ago, a group of 16 students began studies in Syria. In the meantime, Syrian authorities have refused to increase the number of visitors from the Golan Heights Druze. The Syrians are willing to continue accepting approximately 150 Druze per year in no more than four groups.

Aliyah Aid Sought From Germany, Elsewhere

TA2209130491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 22 Sep 91 p 2

[Report by Nehama Dowek and Gad Li'or]

[Excerpts] "Israel will require between \$65 and \$70 billion over the next few years to absorb aliyah. Approximately \$45 billion will be raised from independent sources. Israel has asked for \$10 billion in loan guarantees from the United States, and the rest will be requested from friendly European countries, including Germany." This was reported yesterday by a senior Treasury official.

The official said that contacts had been held with the German Government on issuing guarantees for humanitarian aid for immigrant absorption, but no definite figures had been discussed. Apparently a sum of 10 billion Deutsche marks—about \$6 billion—is being considered. [passage omitted]

Sources in the Finance Ministry reported yesterday that contacts are also being held with Japan, Britain, France, and Italy. It was stressed that no contacts were being held with the Government of South Africa.

Since most expenditures in immigrant absorption are in foreign currency, Finance Ministry sources said that there was no point in levying new taxes or raising existing ones, which would only bring in shekels.

Reacting to reports that U.S. President George Bush had last week asked German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to suspend aid to Israel, official German sources yesterday reported that no decision has been made in Bonn to suspend or to delay economic aid to Israel.

Bonn sources would not confirm or deny reports yesterday that the United States had made such a request. Nevertheless, Carol-Deiter Spranger, German minister for economic cooperation, said that although nothing had been decided in Bonn, he believes that aid should be withheld until progress is made in the peace process.

During his visit to the United States last week, Chancellor Kohl said that he supports the U.S. position on the loan guarantees to Israel; he also stressed that nothing had been decided in Bonn regarding aid to Israel.

Various statements made in Bonn, however, imply that Germany is indeed contemplating withholding indirect economic aid to Israel, such as credit guarantees for German exporters and for construction in Israel.

Official Israeli sources categorically denied that Germany is now considering halting or delaying economic aid to Israel. Aviv Shir'on, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in Bonn, said: "Contacts have indeed recently been held between Israeli and German officials on the issue of economic aid, but nothing concrete has been decided." [passage omitted]

Approval 'In Principle' for Ethiopian Converts

TA2109203491 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Hebrew 1920 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] Israel has adopted a decision in principle to handle the immigration to Israel of the Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity. The prime minister recently endorsed a confidential report by a special committee he had set up to recommend ways to deal with the problem. The report has not yet been published, but it has nevertheless reached our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, who brings us its highlights:

The committee on the Falash-mura [Ethiopian Jews who converted to Christianity] was appointed by the prime minister approximately 10 weeks ago and just recently submitted its recommendations. It was headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, and its report suggests that Israel should, as a matter of principle, help the Ethiopian converts immigrate to Israel. This is an unprecedented case where a large community opted out of Judaism over an extended period of time not due to any coercion, but for convenience. The Law of Return does not apply to these converts, and in Operation Solomon [May 1991 airlifting of Ethiopian Jews to Israel] thousands of them were left behind.

The government-appointed committee cites Jewish law and contends that, accordingly, even when a Jew errs, he or she remains Jewish, adding nonetheless that the issue is extremely complex. Thus, for example, the reports on the number of these converts vary from between at least 15,000 to hundreds of thousands. Eligibility for immigration will not be determined according to humanitarian considerations. Those who immigrate will have to undergo a process of return to Judaism—not exactly a full process of conversion, but something akin to it.

Israel, according to one recommendation, will send a pilot delegation to Ethiopia and then a slightly larger delegation with rabbis, Ethiopian religious leaders, and other experts in Judaism—all in coordination with the Ethiopian authorities. The committee will examine each case of a convert who wishes to immigrate to Israel, the individual's family ties, and evaluate their desire to return to the Jewish fold. Those approved by the committee will enjoy the right to immigrate to Israel as Jews. Priority will be given to requests by Ethiopian emigres who left behind first-degree relatives who converted to Christianity. The problem, then, is very involved, and it will be dealt with carefully and probably slowly. Still, the decision on the matter, as we said, has already been made.

Yemeni Officials Arrive for Working Visit

Foreign Minister's Statement

JN2109142091 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] The Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani arrived in Amman this morning on an official visit to Jordan, during which he will take part in the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Yemeni committee starting tomorrow.

Dr. al-Iryani said upon arrival that the meetings have special importance, being held during such crucial Arab circumstances. The Yemeni foreign minister said that meetings will deal with bilateral coordination and the fields of economy, trade, science, and education. Dr. al-Iryani was met by the Information Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, who is also acting foreign minister, and a number of Foreign Ministry officials and the Yemeni ambassador in Amman.

Prime Minister on Upcoming Talks

JN2209170591 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has said that he hopes the current session of the higher Jordanian-Yemeni joint committee, the first to be formed in the wake of the reunification of Yemen, will be a step on the road toward the achievement of economic integration between the two countries. In a statement to the press upon his arrival in Amman today, al-'Attas said:

[Begin al-'Attas recording] I would like to state how happy I am to visit fraternal Jordan and to convey to its king, government, and people greetings from the leadership, government, and people of the Republic of Yemen. This visit to fraternal Jordan takes place within the framework of the higher Yemeni-Jordanian joint committee's efforts to enhance cooperative relations between our two fraternal countries. We have high hopes that this session, the first to take place since the establishment of the Republic of Yemen, will result in solid and firm steps on the road to the consolidation of bilateral economic cooperation and integration between our two countries, and in all other fields. [end recording]

On the topics the joint committee will discuss during its meeting, which will begin in Amman tomorrow, the Yemeni prime minister said:

[Begin al-'Attas recording] The committee has to study several topics dealing with joint cooperation. Within this framework, expertise among cadres from both countries is being exchanged. The two countries are also giving importance to specific issues, such as trade cooperation, to attain economic integration between our two countries; and cooperation in agriculture, working from the premise that Yemen has sizable agricultural potential but lacks expertise in some fields, while fraternal Jordan

has made big strides in these areas. We believe that cooperation between the two countries in this field will bring about the integration we desire. Several issues will also be discussed to enhance cooperation in the industrial field, as well as in electricity and the use of natural gas, not to mention many other topics.

What we want to emphasize here is that, within the framework of their efforts to entrench relations between the two countries, the two governments want the official agreements that will be signed to open new vistas for both countries' private sectors so that they can strengthen their relations in all fields. We call for the establishment of several joint ventures between the two private sectors. In addition, the two governments could participate in some of these ventures to encourage cooperation between the two countries. We believe that the encouragement of the private sectors in the two countries will have positive and good results. As part of this cooperation, there are also issues dealing with culture and education, and other cooperation issues between our fraternal countries. [end recording]

Joint Committee Begins Meetings

JN2309152591 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Meetings of the higher Jordanian-Yemeni committee began in Amman today co-chaired by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Yemeni Premier Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The agenda of the meetings covers cooperation in industrial and agricultural fields, and the talks deal with water, energy, education, culture, and information. The discussions will also tackle the exchange of trade expertise, and it will tackle the issue of encouraging the private sectors of both sides to launch joint ventures in both countries.

And earlier this morning the minutes of the meetings of the preparatory committee, entrusted with drawing up the agenda of the joint higher Jordanian-Yemeni committee, were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The minutes were signed by Mr. 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, a minister of industry, trade and supply, on behalf of Jordan; and his Yemeni counterpart Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah on behalf of his country. The minutes cover the existing and future cooperation aspects between the two countries, and ways of promoting them.

King Husayn Receives al-'Attas

JN2309163391 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpt] At al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon, His Majesty King Husayn received Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

Al-'Attas conveyed a message to his majesty from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, head of the Presidential Council in the Republic of Yemen.

The prime ministers of the two sisterly states briefed King Husayn on the work of the Higher Jordanian-Yemeni Joint Committee and its efforts toward developing and enhancing relations of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially in the economic and trade sectors.

King Husayn blessed the committee's efforts and expressed his full support for it in its endeavor to realize economic integration between the two sisterly states, Jordan and Yemen.

His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the political situation in the Middle East and developments in the regional peace efforts. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on Arab Ties, Regional Peace

NC2109094091 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
20 Sep 91 pp 24, 25

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur by AL-MUSAWWAR correspondent Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] [Al-Sa'id] The White Paper was a crisis which reflected the tension in Egyptian-Jordanian relations. Did you clear the atmosphere during your meeting with President Mubarak?

[Al-Nusur] President Mubarak honored me by receiving me last Wednesday [11 September]. It was an amicable and positive meeting. Jordan wishes to maintain a good relationship with Egypt and wishes to have true and permanent coordination with it, not occasional coordination. I want to assert that the White Paper crisis no longer exists. We consider this chapter closed. I also want to note that relations with Egypt are strong and will resume their former warmth. There will be coordination and we shortly will see good and positive results on this.

[Al-Sa'id] What can you tell us about the five-party coordination between Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the PLO prior to the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] I raised this subject with President Mubarak and received his blessing for it. I emphasize that Egyptian-Jordanian views are in complete agreement on the need for inter-Arab coordination prior to the peace conference. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] What about your current relations with Saudi Arabia, particularly as tension between you reached a climax when Saudi Arabia cut off your oil supplies during the Gulf War?

[Al-Nusur] It is not the oil that matters to us in our relationship with Saudi Arabia. Oil is the smallest and least important loss. The loss that actually causes pain is the absence of the true amity which has always existed between us. What hurts us is that this relationship could be overshadowed by suspicion. This issue is more important than oil, which simply is a commodity that comes and goes. What really concerns us is remedying the

situation and clearing the atmosphere. We are not complaining about the material aspect of the issue.

[Al-Sa'id] Are relations improving now?

[Al-Nusur] There are clear signs that this is happening, including the conspicuous lack of attacks in the Saudi media. This is typical also of Saudi leaders and officials. Saudi media always refrains from hurtful criticism and this in itself is an indication that relations will resume their former status. The Saudis recently adopted measures to facilitate the transit of Jordanian travelers passing through Saudi Arabia to other Gulf Arab countries and to Yemen. There have been other helpful steps. We do not deny that the significance of these measures is clear to us. We hope that matters will take the correct course. The movement is slow but sure.

[Al-Sa'id] Some consider the recently signed security agreement between Kuwait and the United States a consolidation of a permanent U.S. presence in the Gulf. I want to ask if you feel that Iraq, in its current military circumstances, continues to pose a threat to the Gulf states?

[Al-Nusur] Why do we not adopt a new outlook and see every member of the Arab family as an addition to Arab strength and not a threat to it? If we succeed in consolidating self-confidence, cooperation, and good intentions, we will never need foreign forces to defend us. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] How true are the allegations that Jordan is setting a trap for the Palestinians?

[Al-Nusur] Israel is telling lies. Israel is an occupying force and it is in the wrong. It is seeking to provoke division and disputes among us to secure its own interests. We always expect it to act like this. Our position on the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, is clear. We emphasize that we will not go to the peace conference without the Palestinian people. We will not participate in the negotiations without the Palestinian people and their approval. We are not ready to act on their behalf, represent them, speak for them, or interfere in their selection of representatives. We support an independent Palestinian delegation if the Palestinians want that and if it is accepted by the other parties. We also would support a collective Arab delegation or a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We leave this question to them to decide.

[Al-Sa'id] What are your views on Jerusalem as an issue that must not be excluded from Arab-Israeli negotiations?

[Al-Nusur] I want to ask if there is an Arab Muslim or Christian who can imagine an honorable and just peace that excludes Jerusalem. Certainly not. It is unimaginable and everyone knows this. The United States knows this and regards East Jerusalem as an occupied territory like the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and Gaza that

must return to its true Arab owners. It believes that its annexation is illegal. This also is our view.

[Al-Sa'id] Has the United States assured you that if the negotiations stumble or halt, it will intervene and do its utmost to resume the talks between the Arabs and the Israelis?

[Al-Nusur] It is exactly like that. The assurance the United States is offering is that it will act as a catalyst. It will not, however, guarantee specific results from the conference. It only guarantees that it will intervene and make well-intended efforts to ensure that the negotiations achieve concrete results.

[Al-Sa'id] The Israeli defense budget actually looks like a war budget. It has increased, despite calls by some ministers to reduce it. Israel is playing a war tune and is saying that the Arabs would not have hastened to negotiate with it if they had not been afraid of its military power. Do you believe Israel wants peace?

[Al-Nusur] Israel has made changes in two directions. It has noticeably reduced appropriations for economic and social development and has increased military spending. This is happening when all countries are reducing expenditures on arms. Israel represents a case different not only from the Arab countries, but from the entire world. It has increased its defense budget by \$300 million this year. One must remember that this budget is merely the part disbursed by the Israeli treasury. In addition, there is the foreign aid it receives, including the U.S. grant which includes both military and economic aid. Furthermore, Israel is waiting to obtain \$10 billion in housing loans. Add to this the fact that part of the military arsenal used in the Gulf war has been transferred to Israel. All this represents a reserve for Israel's future wars. Consequently, it would be self-deception to deny that the huge Israeli military establishment will exert pressure on it to reject the concept of peace. Anyone who does not say this deceives both himself and his people. Israel is very powerful and there is no tally of the type and range of its armaments. At the same time, checks are placed on our armaments, creating a situation in which speaking of a balance of power between us and the Israeli adversary is laughable and meaningless in today's world. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sa'id] Do you believe it is possible for the Palestinian issue to be resolved by the beginning of 1992? Is it possible that the proposed peace conference will yield a real settlement?

[Al-Nusur] My duty as a diplomat requires me to say: Yes, I hope that the peace conference will produce a settlement. The facts, however, make it necessary for me to say: No, the conference will produce no results if the opposing party, Israel, is not really interested in peace, flouts the peace process, and believes that the Palestinian people have no right to exist, have a homeland, or exercise self-determination. Israel acts this way while it fills the world with false concern about human rights in the countries of the former socialist bloc, Europe, and

Latin America. When it comes to the Palestinian people, however, any talk of their rights and self-determination is ridiculed. Yes, peace will come, but only when the same criteria apply to all parties.

On Baker Visit, Letter of Assurances

JN2109082391 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 21 Sep 91
pp 1, 18

[By Caroline Faraj in Amman]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur has said that Jordan is now conducting a legal and political analysis of the detailed letter of assurances it recently received from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Mr. al-Nusur said: It is our right to study and analyze the contents of the letter; we are doing this through calm diplomacy.

Jordan, he said, will not prepare a reply to the U.S. letter of assurances, but may propose improvements if necessary.

Asked why Jordan, unlike Syria, Israel, and the Palestinians, has not requested time to study and answer the letter of assurances, and whether this means Jordan accepts the letter, Dr. al-Nusur said: Before Baker came to Jordan—specifically, between his two visits—we sent some questions to the U.S. Administration in writing, and we discussed the proposed contents of the letter with U.S. working teams. This means we had already gone a long way on the subject of U.S. clarifications and assurances required by Jordan. However, we will study and analyze the letter in detail.

Asked about his information and expectations concerning the Palestinian position, Dr. al-Nusur said: Although Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is continuing and has not ceased, especially over the past few months, and although we are fully aware of Palestinian requirements, Jordan is not entitled to discuss these through the media; what concerns the Palestinians is left exclusively to them.

Asked about Hanan 'Ashrawi's coming to Amman yesterday to convey to Secretary Baker a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO concerning the assurances, and whether choosing Amman as the venue for the meeting entails any political significance, Dr. al-Nusur said: It is not our business to draw conclusions from this meeting; we only played host to the two sides, and the meeting was held on Jordanian territory.

Dr. al-Nusur said he did not meet with Dr. 'Ashrawi because her visit was not scheduled; it was decided only early Friday.

Some political analysts believe the PLO's surprising and late-night consent to the meeting in Amman might

implicitly point to its acceptance of the principle of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the peace conference.

Asked about media reports that Jordan contacted Mr. Baker at 0200 on Friday to tell him that the PLO agreed to come to Amman and to ask him to facilitate Dr. 'Ashrawi's crossing of the bridge to Jordan, Dr. al-Nusur said: Whether this is true or not, it is a purely administrative matter, irrelevant to the content of current consultations.

Asked to evaluate the general climate in the wake of Secretary Baker's seventh tour, the foreign minister said he believes the peace conference will be held. He said the Arab side is serious about achieving a just, lasting, and honorable peace.

He added: Regrettably, however, the Israelis are daily making statements and adopting positions that leaves one without assurances about their good and serious intentions toward peace. These positions cast doubt on their alleged concern for the peace process, he said.

On the date and place of the peace conference, Dr. al-Nusur said: It was agreed to hold the conference toward the end of October, but the venue has not been fixed yet. [passage omitted]

U.S. Assurances Neither Clear Nor Convincing

*JN2009134791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
20 Sep 91 pp 1, 13*

[Editorial: "Baker's Mission Is at a Standstill"]

[Text] It is obvious that the U.S. letters of assurances presented by Secretary James Baker were neither amply clear nor convincing. This is why Damascus dwelt on them and asked for further clarifications. The Palestinians, as well, rejected Baker's proposal to meet with them in Amman, because the U.S. letter of assurances received by their delegation did not, in fact, include assurances.

This indicates that Baker's mission during his seventh tour of the region is at a standstill, producing nothing new.

It is correct that the Bush administration has restated its commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace. However, the letters of assurances addressed to the Arab and Palestinian side do not contain anything to reiterate this commitment with all its genuine and candid meanings and dimensions.

Despite all this, the Arab side is ready to participate in the peace conference on the basis of this loose and general formula, which leaves room for various interpretations. The Arab side is ready for this out of its concern not to waste this opportunity for peace in the region, which is in dire need of it. And this was stressed by Baker himself when he praised King Husayn's efforts in this regard.

If the Palestinian side agrees on participation in the peace conference under the umbrella of a joint delegation with Jordan, no obstacles will remain on the march of peace, except the ones placed by Israel.

We believe that Israel will continue to place obstacles on the path to the peace conference, hoping the talks will be postponed or foiled. This requires a more serious and resolute U.S. stand on this Israeli course, which obstructs the peace process; and consequently, so that this opportunity, which might not be repeated, would not be lost.

Here, we must take Shamir's threats to torpedo the peace conference with seriousness, vigilance, and alertness, even if these threats are an open political maneuver aimed at directing U.S. pressure toward the Arab side to make it side with the Israeli view and interpretations of UN Resolution 242.

The important thing for the Arabs and the Palestinians is to achieve expeditiously a successful coordination among them to solidify unified stands that help them restore their rights, through a process that will achieve a fair, comprehensive, and durable peace, or reject the U.S. initiative upon its very basis.

U.S. Assurances 'Complicated' Peace Process

*JN1809160391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
18 Sep 91 pp 1, 16*

[Editorial: "U.S. Assurances Add New Complications"]

[Text] It was obvious, from an objective view of the allied relations between Washington and Tel Aviv, that the U.S. assurances made by Secretary Baker yesterday to Israel and the Palestinians should be biased toward the Zionists on the one hand, and remain vague and hazy on the other, so that they could be easily interpreted in Israel's favor.

A quick review of the two letters of assurances confirms beyond doubt that the U.S. Administration has not changed, despite the storm that erupted regarding President Bush's request that the Congress defer discussions of the loan guarantees requested by Israel to absorb immigrant Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

We have always asserted, especially at the outset of the U.S. diplomatic offensive following the end of the military aggression against Iraq, that if the U.S. Administration is serious about achieving a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region, it should exert real pressures on its ally, Israel, to make it accept international legitimacy and implement UN Resolutions 242 and 338. We do not think that the international community is split over the need to apply international legitimacy, which is clear as day in relation to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We believe, however, that the U.S. assurances made by Baker to Israel and the Palestinians do not change anything, nor add any effective factor to the peace

process. For, in addition to the fact that they are non-binding and do not guarantee anything, they are also clearly biased toward Israel.

These assurances do not support the establishment of a Palestinian state on the one hand, and assert, on the other, the Palestinians' right to self-determination. Establishing the Palestinian state is an essential demand of the Palestinian people, and we do not know how self-determination for any people can be achieved without the establishment of an independent state?

The U.S. assurances, moreover, do not support maintaining an Israeli presence in the occupied territories, but they do not assert the need for a complete withdrawal, as Resolution 242 stipulates. While the assurances also acknowledge that the peace process is based on Resolution 242, Washington asserts in the letters of assurances its approval of each party interpreting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 his own way. How can we reconcile these contradictory ideas, and in whose interest is this?

At the time when Washington accepts having the Jerusalem issue on the agenda of the peace conference, it affirms to Israel its refusal to see the city divided. Washington also affirms that the final status of Jerusalem will be determined during the negotiations, when it fully knows that Israel absolutely insists that Jerusalem is its eternal capital.

In its assurances to the Palestinians, Washington endorses the fact that they have the right to name their delegation to the negotiations, when it promises Israel that no party is obliged to negotiate with other parties to which it objects—a clear reference to excluding the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Washington also gives Israel the right to reject any person within the Palestinian delegation if it claims that this person represents the PLO.

We reassert that the U.S. assurances noted above have further complicated the peace process at the time when everybody was waiting for Washington to overcome the remaining obstacles before convening the peace conference and exert real pressure on Israel.

Baker Tour Might Be Cover for Striking Iraq

JN1909124091 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic
19 Sep 91 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Provoking Iraq and the Peace Process"]

[Text] There are several astonishing questions and worrying feelings that must be discussed frankly following reports that the United States is preparing for an air attack against Iraq if it does not destroy its so-called nuclear and biological weapons. What causes this astonishment and worry is that these preparations are taking place despite the fact that Iraq has presented all the information it has about its nuclear and biological capabilities to the international inspection teams that carried

out their tasks throughout Iraq, and whose members admitted that Iraq has fully cooperated with them and that all its nonconventional weapons have actually been removed. This means that there is no objective reason to deal a new strike at Iraq, unless the aim is to destroy it completely at a time when it is suffering from a very serious shortage of food and medicine.

What also calls for astonishment and worry is that the reports about these preparations come at a time when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is making his seventh tour of the region to reactivate the peace process. That these two issues coincide gives the impression that Baker's tour could be the mechanism Washington has chosen to divert attention from Iraq, and the cover it has prepared to carry out the aggression against Iraq, thus avoiding any attempt by anyone to prevent it. In fact, the timing Washington has chosen to prepare for this aggression, which follows theoretical differences between President Bush and Israel over loans, may give some sides the impression that these differences are also no more than a cover for the aggression, and that the objective is to eliminate several sides' suspicion that the strike to be dealt Iraq will be a service to Israel. Such a strike might even be at Israel's request, to give it a distinguished negotiating position should the peace process begin, and, at the same time, terrorize all Arabs before it begins, and consequently make it easy to tame them when it does.

One may also believe that preparing to attack Iraq at this particular time could mean that Washington's objective is to wash its hands of the peace process without being responsible for disavowing it, especially since it knows that attacking Iraq would greatly anger the Arab masses, and that this anger would embarrass some Arab sides and consequently prevent them from participating in the peace process to avoid swimming in the Iraqi people's blood. Thus, the objective is achieved, and Washington would rush to claim that it is the Arabs who do not want peace, and that it has done its job and cannot do more than what it has done.

No one can believe that a genuine peace march could get under way while preparations are being made to launch a new war against Iraq. Peace in the region is an indivisible whole, and the United States had better realize that any new aggression against Iraq will not give it the chance to wash its hands of the peace process with clean water, rather it would stain its hands with more blood. If the United States is really interested in removing nonconventional weapons from the region, then it should remove the Israeli nuclear and biological arsenal, which it supplied with fatal weapons. Provoking Iraq now will only disturb the situation in the region and obstruct the peace process.

Activists Seek To Free Nationals in Syria

JN2309101091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
23 Sep 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian activists Saturday sought the help of Europe for the release of eight Jordanian political prisoners held for the last 20 years in Syrian jails.

"The National Committee for Follow-up on Jordanian Political Prisoners in Syria has urged the European Parliamentary delegation to intervene with Syria to release the prisoners," Samir al-Habashinah a member of the committee told the Jordan Times. He said that all eight were detained without trial for their political beliefs and had carried no acts to undermine the Syrian state.

Following is part of the text of the committee's message:

The world is on the path of establishing political plurality democracy and the respect of freedom and the other opinion. And since you have a leading role in paving such a path, and since the detainees are prisoners of conscience who practice peaceful dialogue and since there is not a reason to keep them in prolonged detention, we call upon you to intercede on their behalf with the Syrian authorities so that they may be released immediately and so they may join their families who have waited for more than twenty years in horrific turmoil.

We write this memorandum to you, as we believe that your ideals regarding human rights will make this issue one of priority on your agenda when dealing with Syrian officials and that your respect for human rights and dignity will give this issue its due of international political attention, so that the detainees will be released.

With our best regards

[Signed] The National Committee for the Release of Jordanian Political Detainees in Syrian Prisons.

Crown Prince Departs on Visit to London

*JN2009125091 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1100 GMT 20 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] His royal highness the crown prince flew to London today on a working visit to the United Kingdom due to last several days. [passage omitted]

Rushdie's Award To 'Delay' Hostage Release

NC2209170691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi has said that author Salman Rushdie's recent British literary award will delay the hostage release process. Al-Musawi added that the Islamic groups in Lebanon, which hold a number of hostages, are committed to Imam Khomeyni's ruling to kill Rushdie.

RJO Promises To Free Hostage Within '48 Hours'

NC2409051091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0315 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] has announced that it will release British hostage Jack Mann in the next 48 hours due to the success of the UN secretary general's efforts. In a statement accompanied by a photograph of American hostage Joseph Cicippio, the organization thanked Iran and Syria for their cooperation, which has led to this positive result.

Further on Announcement

NC2409070391 (Clandestine) Voice of the
Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization [RJO] yesterday affirmed that it will release British hostage Jack Mann in the next 48 hours due to the success of the UN secretary general's efforts.

In a hand-written statement released in Beirut and accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Joseph Cicippio, the organization explained that, by releasing Mann, it seeks to contribute to the success of the second phase of the exchange of the Western hostages with the Lebanese and Palestinian hostages held by Israel, and to settle the issue of the hostages and prisoners.

The organization thanked all those who helped and cooperated in reaching these positive results, especially Iran and Syria. The organization expressed its hope that further progress will be made to secure the interests of all the parties involved.

Release Expected 'by Midnight'

LD2409100991 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT
24 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 24, IRNA—The British hostage Jack Mann, a retired airline pilot, is said to be freed by midnight Tuesday, informed sources said here a short while ago. Mann, 77, the oldest Western hostage, was abducted on May 12, 1989 in West Beirut. The 'Islamic Justice Organization' had earlier announced that Mann will be freed within 48 hours.

Al-Hirawi Comments Before Departing for UN

NC2109123091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Statement by President Ilyas al-Hirawi in Beirut on 21 September prior to departing for New York to attend the UN General Assembly session—recorded]

[Text] We are leaving Lebanon carrying its concerns and past tragedies. Believing in the unity of this homeland—from south to north and from east to west—we hope to live up to the mission entrusted to all of us. We will defend all our rights, especially our usurped rights in the dear south. We hope everyone will help us in this mission, which is both difficult and historic. It is our duty to defend our rights, especially at the United Nations.

We hope we will succeed. We hope we will return bringing with us the solutions which every sincere Lebanese desires.

Egypt Reportedly To Supply Arms, Train Army

NC2409052691 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] Sources in Cairo that have been described as reliable have said that Egypt has agreed to meet Lebanon's military needs regarding arms supply and the training of the Lebanese Army. The weapons will be used for training and for strategic use in defense and assault operations. These weapons include armored vehicles, long- and medium-range artillery, and other types of military equipment.

Defense Minister Holds News Conference

NC2309174791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Michel al-Murr, deputy prime minister and defense minister, has said the presence of the president, the chamber speaker, and the prime minister in New York provides Lebanon with a good opportunity to make its unified voice heard and to demand the termination of the Zionist occupation. He stressed that the Lebanese Army will be ready to take over security in the occupied border zone once UN Resolution 425 is implemented, adding that the Lebanese foreign minister will hold contacts on the deployment of the Army in the UN's area of operations. Al-Murr's remarks came during a news conference he held at the government house today. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Murr later left for Damascus to hold talks with a number of Syrian officials.

Ministers Birri, Baydun To Rejoin Cabinet

NC1909193991 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Following its meeting this evening, the Amal Movement's Central Council has decided that Ministers Nabih Birri and Muhammad Baydun, its representatives in the government, should return to the cabinet and participate in its activity. A statement released by the Central Council has stressed that it is completely concerned with giving priority to major national issues, particularly the issue of southern Lebanon, an issue which had primary importance for Imam Musa al-Sadr.

The statement also noted that, in line with the Syrian accord, certain issues have been addressed—specifically the issue of the disappearance of Imam Musa al-Sadr and his two aides in Libya. The statement added that nothing can be settled with the Libyan regime until this national and Islamic issue has been resolved. The statement also touched on the need to conduct the cabinet meetings according to the letter and spirit of the al-Ta'if accord.

The statement also said that, in line with the Syrian initiative and the Council of Minister's recent positions, the Amal Movement's Central Council has decided that Ministers Birri and Baydun should participate in government activity. The statement hailed the people, parties, friends, and establishments that supported the Amal Movement's position.

Clashes in Druze Area Kill 7, Wound 4

NC2309170991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] According to an exclusive security report received by the Voice of Lebanon, a clash took place in Ma'asir al-Shuf this afternoon, killing seven people and wounding four others.

The report indicated that citizen Marwan 'Alam-al-Din opened machine gun fire at three civilians—Ihab al-Husniyah, Husni 'Azzam, and Najm Tamraz—and Lebanese soldier 'Amir Abu-'Asi, killing them instantly. The report added that, while a security force was chasing the gunman, a clash occurred which killed three military personnel and wounded four others. Tension reigns supreme throughout the town.

Fadlallah Criticizes Kelly Visit, U.S. Intent

NC2009175391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 20 Sep 91

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has attacked U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly's visit to Lebanon. He said Kelly came to ask for an end to the resistance against Israel so that Israel would be able to have freedom of movement throughout Lebanon, with no one limiting its activities.

In his Friday sermon, Fadlallah added that, according to U.S. instructions, Lebanon was to participate in the peace conference without conditions—to negotiate with Israel and share water with it, after which Israel would withdraw. He said that this amounts to a U.S. call to bring down Resolution 425. He said that this is the pitfall the Lebanese regime stumbled into when it said it would take part in the conference.

Al-Shar' Arrives in New York for UN Meetings

*JN2409073491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Sep 91*

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in New York yesterday [23 September] heading Syria's delegation to the meetings of the 46th UN General Assembly session to deliver Syria's speech before the United Nations to explain Syria's position on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the international efforts to convene a peace conference. The speech will also touch on the improvement witnessed this year in the Lebanese situation and the need for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Al-Shar's speech will also deal with the international situation and regional conflicts, such as the Cyprus issue, the Afghan problem, and the situation in South Africa, as well as other political, economic, and social issues listed on the UNGA session agenda.

Al-Shar' will also attend the meetings that will be held by the Nonaligned Movement, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab group. He will also attend the meeting between the Arab group's foreign ministers and their Latin American counterparts to exchange views and review a number of international and regional issues as well as the remaining topics on this session's agenda.

It was agreed that the foreign minister will meet with the U.S. secretary of state, and the foreign ministers of the USSR, the UK, and France, as well as a large number of other foreign ministers.

UN Correct in Equating Zionism With Racism

*JN2409065291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 24 Sep 91*

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN devotes its editorial to a discussion of the 46th UN General Assembly [UNGA] session, saying: Yesterday, open deliberations began on the 145 issues and topics listed on the 46th session's agenda. Thirty heads of state and prime ministers are attending this session. The current UNGA session is important because it is the first to be held after the end of the cold war, the beginning of the so-called phase of detente with the involvement of the entire world, the elimination of the traces and effects of this war, and also on the heels of highly critical developments and changes that took place in Europe and the USSR.

The paper adds: All parties agree that if the United Nations is to play the role it has clearly spelled out, its 46th session must be a prominent turning point in the organization's history. The organization must expand its missions and play its role in full with regard to tackling hot issues, international conflicts, and regional disputes to help serve the causes of security, peace, and international detente.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Hence, when Israel antagonizes the United Nations and refuses to implement its resolutions, it is in fact refusing to comply with international legitimacy, evading the requirements of peace, and seeking to torpedo peace efforts. The paper notes: Undoubtedly, when it sets impossible conditions for the convening of an international peace conference, places obstacles and barriers in the way of settling the Middle East conflict, and takes a hostile stand toward UN participation in the conference, Israel, by all this, exposes its aggressive and expansionist nature, and its racist objectives of maintaining its position as a center of permanent tension in the region and a cause of turbulence and instability in the Middle East. Therefore, the United Nations was right when it passed a resolution equating Zionism with racism. By so doing, the United Nations hit the nail on the head and truly expressed the world community's desire to see Israel abandon its schemes regarding the seizure of Arab lands. By adopting this resolution, the world community also wanted Israel to relinquish its aggressive, racist, and terrorist policies, recognize the Arabs' rights to their land and comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: Israel knows, before anybody else, that there can be no lasting peace in the region unless the Arabs regain their lands and the UN resolutions are implemented through an international peace conference. Likewise, Israel is well aware that any talk of something different is deceptive and aimed at wasting peace opportunities, torpedoing world efforts, and imposing capitulation on the Arabs.

UAE President Concludes Visit, Leaves 19 Sep

*JN1909091391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT
19 Sep 91*

[Excerpt] Damascus, 19 Sep (SANA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] president, left Damascus at 1100 today following a three-day fraternal visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Pakistani Policy Said Still 'Double-Faced'

LD2109162491 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0510 GMT 19 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sept 18, BAKHTAR—The joint Soviet-U.S. statement on termination of arms deliveries to the warring sides in the Afghan conflict received widespread repercussions. Iran and Saudi Arabia declared their support to the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue. They expressed to Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, their readiness to implement the five-point peace plan of the United Nations, says an article entitled Pakistan False-Faced Policy published by daily PAYAM today.

However, Pakistan has adopted a dual approach: Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of Pakistan, in his meeting with the UN secretary general in Tehran declared his decisive support to the political settlement of Afghanistan's issue. But, simultaneously, Sharyar Khan, a high-ranking official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan said that "Pakistan is not yet prepared to commit itself about the supply or non-supply of arms to mujahedin." He added that it is too early to say whether Pakistan determines to stop the supply of arms to mujahidin.

Sharyar Khan had once again said on Monday at a press conference that "the American-Soviet joint statement is an incomplete bilateral agreement."

The expressions of Sharyar Khan regarding the Soviet-American statement once again confirm the double-faced policy of Pakistan. It is so because Pakistan does not want to see a strong Afghanistan.

Reliable reports from Islamabad say that Pakistan is seeking to deliver 300 tanks to the opposition groups of Afghanistan. These tanks are confiscated by Saudi Arabia during the war with Iraq and have already been delivered to Pakistan by Saudi Arabia. BBC confirmed it in an interview with Jalaluddin Haqqani, an opposition field commander. BBC says that out of these tanks, seven of them were put at the disposal of Haqqani by the military circles of Pakistan.

The recent reactions of the extremist elements and the Pakistani rulers about the Soviet-American statement make clearer their stand for the continuation of bloodshed and further destruction of Afghanistan. But the process of the political settlement of Afghanistan issue is entering its practical stage and the horizons for its solution becomes more brilliant.

At the current moment, not only the domestic factors but the external ones on the rapid political settlement of the Afghanistan issue have taken shape and big move towards peace is getting ahead. Pakistan, the military circles, their hirelings and finally the statement of

Sharyar Khan cannot push back the firm will of Afghans for the restoration of a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, the article concludes.

Commentary Criticizes Opposition Activities

LD2309053591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0435 GMT 23 Sep 91

[BAKHTAR commentary]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 22, BAKHTAR—As one can induce from international news media, most Afghans, national and political figures of Afghanistan have given their support to the joint Soviet-American statement and the UN secretary general five-point plan for the political settlement of Afghanistan issue. One of these Afghans is Ashraf Ghani Ahmad Zai, a lecturer in one of American universities. He says that one of the objectives of the plan of the UN secretary general is to preserve the freedom, independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, neutrality and Islamic identity of Afghanistan. The second objective of the plan is determination of the right of the Afghan people by themselves. The third objective is the establishment of a transition government in order to provide the ground of the free elections and to achieve this objective a cease-fire should be announced.

In the same way, other Afghan national and political figures residing outside have supported the UN secretary general plan and the Soviet-American joint statement too on the political settlements of Afghanistan issue and arms cut-off to the warring sides in the Afghan conflict.

However, it is regrettable that it is being heard from the heads of the opposition groups of their military preparation to attack on Gardyez city centre of Paktia Province, bordering Pakistan and other parts of the country.

According to the radio Voice of America, on August 29, all commanders of mujahedin important groups held meetings near Khowst and formed a united council to attack on Gardyez. The objective of this council is to collect arms for the continuation of war. The same radio reports that the observers say that mujahedin war activities has stepped up and the reason of it is that some of these groups travel to Moscow and New York and in this way they want to gain prestige.

These actions of the heads of the opposition groups is in flagrant violation of the statement of the UN secretary general and that of the joint Soviet-American statement.

Now, the people of Afghanistan and those of the world will judge that the heads of the groups are in the position of war forcing the state of Afghanistan to counter-attack in order to defend the honour of the country.

Rebel Infighting Reportedly Continues

LD2309083591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0444 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sep 22 BAKHTAR—Centres and strongholds of the Sayyaf extremist group located in the Vardkak Province came under heavy attacks of his rival group today. BAKHTAR reported that as a result of the clashes 13 Sayyaf supporters were killed and two others wounded. A quantity of armaments were destroyed too.

According to another report two Jamiat followers were killed and four others wounded when their vehicle hit a mine planted on their way by their rival group in the Ghowr Province lately. Another report says that two extremist ringleaders in the Gulbuddin formations were killed by their rivals due to the internal differences existed among them recently.

Following the inner armed clashes between Jamiat and Mahaz-e groups, the followers of Jamiat formation attacked once more one of the concentrations of its rival group in the suburbs of Aqchah District, Jowzjan Province today, as a result of which Jabar, a ringleader of Mahaz-e formation along with his fifteen men were killed and tens [of] others from the warring sides wounded.

In the clashes which started one week back and is still continuing, tens of extremists were killed and scores wounded.

Army Operations in Nangarhar, Herat, Zabol

LD2309081591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0448 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Kabul, Sep 22, BAKHTAR—Units and detachments of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province conducted mopping up operations in the Koz-kunar [place-name as received] District in this province today. BAKHTAR reported that at the end of the operations 19 ground-to-ground rockets, 60 mortar shells, 65 anti-tank mines, 15 BM-1, 20 war-heads and thousands of Klashnikov bullets were seized.

According to another report, the Herat garrison conducted an ambush attack in the Kariz-e-Sophi [place-name as received] area in this province and crushed extremist war-mongers there. A quantity of arms and ammunition including 280 mortar shells, 100 BM-1, 282 cannon shells, 23 cases of cartridges and 2 vehicles of munition of the extremists destroyed.

According to another report the Zabol police force conducted a combing operation in that province today during which 8 warheads, 15 mortar shells and thousands of cartridges were seized. Some quantity of light and heavy weapons cartridges such as 8 rocket launchers, 15 mortar shells, 2 boxes of Dahshaka cartridges and thousands of light weapon cartridges [were] seized, when the police force of Zabol Province conducted purging operation in environs of that province.

Twenty Casualties in Gardeyz Missile Attack

LD2309161991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Excerpt] The extremists today fired surface-to-surface missiles on the crowded and residential areas of Gardeyz city and martyred or injured 20 Muslim and religious compatriots.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of the missile attack five residents of Gardeyz city, including women and children, were martyred and 15 were injured. In addition, considerable economic damage was inflicted on Gardeyz residents.

Today's missiles were fired at crowded parts of the city and residential areas after Sabgatollah Mojaddi said in an interview last night that instructions were given to the armed opposition groups not to fire missiles at residential areas and cities. However, it is obvious that the opposition leaders make overt humanitarian claims while covertly giving instructions to their armed groups for mass killing and terror against our Muslim compatriots. [passage omitted]

India

Kashmir Militants Kidnap Minister's Relative

BK2309162691 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, militants have kidnapped Mr. Tasaduk Ahmed Dev, a relative of the union minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad.

According to official reports reaching Jammu, some men came to Dev's residence in Lawalpura locality of Srinagar yesterday and took him away. News agency reports say that an outlawed terrorist organization has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Andhra Pradesh, Sri Lankan Militants Linked

BK2309165591 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh home minister, Dr. M.V.M. Reddy, has said that Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] belonging to the People's War Group in the state have established contacts with Sri Lankan militant groups operating in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. He said in the state assembly today that the Naxalites have acquired AK-47 rifles and other arms from these groups.

Army Arrests 45 ULFA Militants in Assam

BK2309150391 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Forty-five ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] suspects have been arrested by the Army in Assam during the last 48 hours, bringing the total number of those apprehended so far to 229. Of these, 17

were taken into custody from Sonetpur, North Lakhimpur areas, 13 from Sibsagar, Dibrugarh, and Tinsukia and 15 from Barbeta, Goalpara, Nalbari, Nowgong, Bongaigaon, and Kamrup areas. Reports indicated that the communication network of the ULFA has been completely smashed and there is no fresh recruitment in their ranks as people are getting more and more disillusioned with their militant activity.

Two Killed in Bomb Blast in Uttar Pradesh

BK2409042091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, two persons were killed and 15 injured in a powerful bomb explosion in a cinema hall in Haridwar yesterday. The condition of two of the injured persons is stated to be serious. According to official sources, two bombs placed under a vacant seat exploded when the audiences were coming out of the cinema hall. The explosion is suspected to be the handiwork of the terrorist.

Seventeen Killed in Punjab in Separate Incidents

BK2409093091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 91

[Text] In Punjab, 17 persons, including eight militants and two policemen, have been killed in separate incidents since last night.

According to an official spokesman, the militants also shot dead a police ASI [Assistant Sub Inspector] and the sarpanch [headman] in Ludhiana District and a police constable in Amritsar District.

Bangladesh Urged To Help Identify Insurgents

BK2309150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] India has called upon Bangladesh to help identify insurgents like ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland reportedly using Bangladesh soil for their activities. This was disclosed to newsmen by the Director General of BSF [Border Security Force], Mr. T. Anantachari, in Calcutta today on his return from Dhaka after attending two-day BSF and Bangladesh rifles talks.

Jammu Strike Demands Statutory Regional Councils

BK2109090291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, a bundh [strike] is being observed in Jammu for the second day today. Most of the shops are closed and public transport is off the roads. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has given the call for the bundh demanding setting up of statutory regional councils for Jammu and Ladakh regions and allocation of 41 assembly seats to Jammu region on the basis of its population. Jammu observed a peaceful bundh yesterday

in protest against the kidnapping of innocent persons by militants in the Kashmir Valley.

Iran

Efforts Continue To Free Iranian Diplomats

LD2309160891 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Beirut, Sept. 23, IRNA—Iran and Lebanon have agreed to follow up the issue of the kidnapped Iranian diplomats in Lebanon, and continue their efforts for their release, informed sources said here today. The sources however declined to elaborate on the details of the agreement, reached during the recent visit of Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to Iran.

They said Iran has expressed its support for all the efforts made for the liberation of the Zionist-occupied South Lebanon, provided that these efforts do not contradict the anti-Zionist struggles.

Iranian charge d'affaires Seyyed Mohsen Musavi, along with three other Iranians was taken hostage in broad daylight at the Barbara checkpoint in Beirut by the pro-Western Christian Phalangist militia way back in 1982.

Khonsari Comments on Regional Relations

PM2309153691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 91 p 2

[Interview with Mohammad Kazem Asadi Khonsari, adviser to the foreign minister and head of the Middle Eastern Affairs Department, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] During your visit to Jordan you conveyed a message to King Husayn. What was the message about?

[Khonsari] My visit took place within the context of Iran's efforts and endeavors to support the Palestinian cause, which is the Islamic nation's central cause. A message from President Rafsanjani was delivered to King Husayn. The message dealt with developments in the region since the Gulf crisis. It also contained a call for continuous and effective cooperation between Arab and Islamic parties in support of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian intifadah.

My talks with Jordanian officials were very successful. We discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and Iran and the development of these relations, particularly after the Jordanian trade minister's recent visit to Iran.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You met yesterday with the Hamas leadership in Jordan. What did you talk about?

[Khonsari] During the meeting we discussed Iran's position in support of the Palestinian cause, the risks facing the Arab nation, and the future of the nation and of the

Palestinian people, who are struggling under the yoke of Zionist occupation. We confirmed Iran's steadfast support and backing for the Palestinian cause and our readiness to stand by the Palestinian people.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The UN secretary general visited Iran recently. What was the purpose of the visit and what were its results in relation to the Western hostages in Lebanon?

[Khonsari] The UN secretary general's visit to Iran was conducted in connection with implementation of the remainder of Security Council Resolution 598 on the Iraq-Iran war.

On the hostage question, Iran is willing to help the UN secretary general in his efforts to bring about the hostages' release. Iran was the first victim of that phenomenon. Some Iranian diplomats were kidnapped in Lebanon and some strugglers have been taken prisoner by Israel and are now in the prisons of the occupation authorities.

We are optimistic about the release of all the hostages soon. Israel's release of some Lebanese prisoners was a good step and we welcomed it, but it was incomplete and Israel must release everyone.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about your relations with Iraq and what about the recent visit to Iran by the [Iraqi] Foreign Ministry under secretary?

[Khonsari] There are still some wounds from the war imposed by the Iraqi regime in Iran. There are 5,000 Iranian POW's and some Iraqi POW's. We have given the Iraqis a list of the names of all the POW's and we asked them for a reply because we want to know the fate of these people. There are also the questions of Shatt al-'Arab, border demarcation, and implementation of the 1975 Algiers Treaty which the Iraqi regime has again recognized. The Iraqi official's visit took place in that context.

As regards the Iraqi aircraft which took refuge in Iran during the Gulf War, I believe the matter is linked to UN resolutions and the lifting of the economic blockade against Iraq.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] It has been claimed that there is some coolness in your relations with Syria. What is your comment on that?

[Khonsari] It is not true. Our relations with Syria are excellent. They are friendly and close relations. Consultations between the Iranian and Syrian presidents are continuing on all issues, and there is a constant exchange of developments and visits between the two countries.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Armed Forces Readiness

LD2209183191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Report on speech by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the opening ceremony of Holy Defense Week by unidentified correspondent at Azadi Square on 22 September]

[Excerpts] During the ceremony, in which the Defense and Armed Forces logistics minister, chief of the Army Joint Staff, Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] commander-general, and commanders of the ground, air, and naval forces, as well as the Army and IRGC Basijis were present, Hashemi-Rafsanjani remarked on continuing the Islamic revolution, and on coinciding of Unity Week and Holy Defense Week. He said: Holy Defense Week, belongs first, to our honourable Armed Forces, and to various strata of the Islamic ummah. [passage omitted]

He said: The people Iranian people defended their country and their revolution by helping the Armed Forces on that day and today the Armed Forces should play their role in the reconstruction through coordination with the people.

The Supreme Defense Council head then referred to the current Gulf situation said: We expect the Armed Forces to defend the country. As you are aware, conspiracy is still being hatched against the Islamic Revolution and the forces should be ready to defend the revolution's ideals, independence and sovereignty. Fortunately, the grounds are prepared for achieving those goals under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. [passage omitted]

Air Force Commander on Plans, Accomplishments

LD2309040991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Interview with Brigadier General Mansur Sattari by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings dear listeners. Honoring Holy Defense Week reminds us of the epic-creating gallant personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces. On this occasion we have arranged an interview with Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, the esteemed commander of the Air Force.

I thank you for giving us your time and answering a few questions. As the commander of the Air Force, what is your assessment of the forces?

[Sattari] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I think the best people who can assess the

performance of the Air Force during the eight years of the Holy Defense are our martyr-nurturing people. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the fact that we are currently undergoing a construction period, please give us a brief report on achievements of the Air Force during the past year.

[Sattari] During the past five years [as heard], we have planned extensive programs for the Air Force—programs that are based on our valuable experience of the Iraq-Iran war, and based on the committed forces many years of experience since the revolution. This was a long-term, 15-year program that we envisaged, we have since been working on it in all fields. Today I am proud to announce that there are no plans on which we have not worked. Many of them have been completed and are on the right track and others are being implemented.

In Air Force organization, we have achieved satisfactory results. In education of the young personnel we have reached new heights. In reconstruction of equipment and facilities preparation we have achieved extraordinary, outstanding results throughout the country.

Today, God be praised, we are equipped, on the basis of what was planned, with the best equipment, the world's best fighter aircraft, and as you see they are flying [reference to the air show staged at Azadi Square in Tehran on the occasion of the start of Holy Defense Week].

Therefore, we have managed to achieve all of our planned requirements. All our planned missions and goals have been completed. God be praised, today the Air Force has achieved and acquired its necessary might, and thanks to the brave performance of its personnel, the Air Force has become a powerful and strong force capable of defending the Islamic revolution and our Islamic country. God willing the Air Force will be a source of pride for the entire world of Islam through its achievements. You have witnessed—in various publications—the Air Force's reconstruction and its new facilities. In the same reports you have been informed about new aircraft, new fighter aircraft, and new missile facilities.

On the occasion of the Holy Defense, on parade day [22 September, Armed Forces Day], all of those aircraft, including the most modern ones, together with the Air Force's new missile facilities will take part in the parade and our ummah will witness the development of the Air Force.

[Correspondent] Please tell us about the future plans for the Air Force.

[Sattari] As I mentioned, whatever was needed for the Air Force to be turned into a force worthy of the dignity of the Islamic revolution has been planned. We have not left anything as far as future planning is concerned. Whatever we are doing is a part of those previously

planned programs, or the implementation of the long-term plans. Some plans take years to complete, therefore we are currently implementing some of those projects. I should mention that in the implementation of all those envisaged projects, we are ahead of what was planned and even more progress has been achieved. In some cases we have achieved much higher goals than we envisaged previously. Those are not achieved but through relying on God, who is really protecting this revolution, and the heartwarming guidelines of the Imam [Khomeyni], and the leader of the Islamic Revolution [Khamene'i], who always supports our work, and also the esteemed officials of the country. Alongside all those we should mention our committed forces who are in fact experienced, clever, educated, and capable of implementing such projects. God be praised, so far they have managed to achieve great progress and they will continue their work in the future with the aim of creating a powerful Air Force capable of defending the Islamic Revolution and our Islamic homeland against any imaginable conspiracy hatched by anyone, or any group of people, who might have any designs on this revolution. You should be assured that our plans will continue in that direction in order for us, God willing, to achieve our final goals.

[Correspondent] Once again I thank you for giving us your time. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Asked To Explain Defense Pact With U.S.

LD2309044891 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1103 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the signing of the defense agreement between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Governments last Thursday, and Kuwait's insistence on availing herself of security in light of the American forces presence in the region, yesterday our country's Supreme National Security Council announced its concern about the deployment of foreign forces in the region. In this connection, as you heard in the news bulletin, the Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in our country was summoned to the Foreign Ministry.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] decisive stand in condemning the occupation of Kuwaiti territory by the Iraqi army and stressing the need for establishing security in the region in order to prevent a repetition of similar incidents is the same in principle as the wishes of Kuwait and other southern littoral governments of the Persian Gulf. Those states are searching for means of establishing security in the region, and Iran, at different junctures and through various channels, has offered the authorities of those countries proposals concerning measures that would lead to consolidating security in the region.

The damages inflicted on the region because of an outlook that searches for security in faraway places and from outsiders cannot be ignored. The least damage

possible is the pollution of the marine environment and more dreadful and disastrous incidents, such as the deliberate firing of the American vessel, Vincennes, on the airliner during the last days of the first Persian Gulf war, which brought more than three hundred innocent people to their death.

So far, the IRI has treated proposed plans concerning regional security measures, such as the plans known as the six-plus-two and the six-plus-one, in a way that encompasses the general interests of the regional states, and believes that peace and security in the Persian Gulf is born from sound relations between regional states that are capable of expansion in various political, economic, social, and cultural fields—free from biased foreign influences and imbued with the regional people's Islamic culture.

Although there are still no details about the agreement signed between the Kuwaiti Government and America, one cannot consider the accord as merely a bilateral defense agreement. We intend no interference in the affairs of that country. On the contrary, its negative effects will involve other regional states. Therefore, it is necessary for the Kuwaiti Government, just as it has, on various occasions, expressed its willingness for expanding relations with Iran, to announce the necessary information about the signing of the defense accord with America.

The IRI, because of her principled viewpoints, at the same time that she is interested in expanding ties with other states—especially member states of the GCC, all of which she has close ties via the sea—seeks cooperation in searching for means of establishing permanent peace and security in the strategic region of the Persian Gulf, and considers the realization of this wish to be possible based on constructive will and in the interest of the Muslim people of the region.

U.S. Said Damaging Tehran-Ankara Relations

NC2409042891 *Tehran International Service*
in Turkish 1530 GMT 21 Sep 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Turkish Ambassador Omer Akbel has been summoned to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry in connection with the Turkish defense minister's recent disclosure that forces opposed to the Turkish Government have escaped into Iran and that an Iranian border guard post fired on targets inside Turkey. During his meeting with the Turkish ambassador, Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Borujerdi protested the Turkish defense minister's disclosure. Borujerdi also said that such claims conflict with Turkish and Iranian policy of improved relations, adding: We are convinced that the United States makes a significant effort to create misconceptions through its problem-creating policies in this sensitive part of the world. We believe that a joint Turkish-Iranian border committee would be an appropriate platform to discuss such claims.

The Turkish ambassador agreed that a joint border committee should be established and denied reports published by several Turkish newspapers that an Iranian border post fired on targets in Turkey and that Turkish military units have entered Iranian territory. Akbel also called for the further development of Iranian-Turkish relations. Several Turkish newspapers have carried stories claiming that Turkish military units went some 15 km inside Iranian territory to crush Kurdish Workers Party units in the past few days.

Political observers believe that the claims by a number of Turks and newspapers in the past few months are part of a move to create an atmosphere to damage the Islamic Republic of Iran and disrupt emerging Iranian-Turkish relations. The hegemonist policies pursued by the United States should be regarded as the basis of such moves to create discord. Since the oil war and the ensuing changes in the world and the sensitive Middle East area, the United States has been trying to maintain its policies by creating a suitable atmosphere for them. It has been trying to achieve its objective in that regard by creating an inauspicious atmosphere against several of the revolutionary countries to mislead their people and influence relations among the countries in the region. The fact that one NATO commander called Iran, Iraq, and Syria threats to regional security should not be forgotten. Certain circles can even be expected to make initiatives aimed at weakening these countries. The resistance and vigilance of the Islamic people is the only factor that can prevent such a move.

It must also be noted that the policy pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on the principle of friendly relations with regional countries, neighboring countries in particular. The Islamic Republic of Iran, therefore, supports improved relations with Turkey.

'Marked Decrease' in Majles Attendance Reported

NC2309134691 *(Clandestine) Voice of Iranian*
Kordestan in Persian 0330 GMT 22 Sep 91

[Text] According to reports from Tehran, while the Islamic Majles is reaching the end of its tenure, daily there is a marked decrease in the number of deputies attending. Most of those Majles deputies who do attend are those who do not (?have any hope) of being reelected or who find the regime's performance so hopeless that they have become completely pessimistic about whether it will continue. With the Council of Guardians' procedural changes in endorsing the qualifications of Majles candidates, it is being predicted that those who do not belong to the Hashemi-Rafsanjani clique will not be able to [words indistinct] and enter the Majles. Most of the individuals who have a majority in the Majles are affiliated with other mullah factions, who want a greater share of government power. They believe that the next Majles also will be manipulated by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i clique.

Afghan Official, Soviet Envoy Meet in Tehran

LD2309185691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Mr. Gudev, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Tehran, this afternoon met and conferred with Mr. Mortazavi, the spokesman for Afghanistan's Vahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] Party. During this meeting, which took place at the request of the Soviet ambassador in the political bureau of Afghanistan's Vahdat-e Eslami Party, the Soviet ambassador, while condemning the dispatch of the Soviet Army to Afghanistan, said: That decision was made by a small group of Soviet leaders who had no links with the people. He added: At present there are some developments on the Afghanistan issue, which increases the hope for restoration of peace in that country.

In conclusion, he announced the desire of the Soviet Government for a representative from Afghanistan's Vahdat-e Eslami Party and a delegation of the Afghan mujahedin to hold talks with the Soviet authorities. He also invited the spokesman for the Vahdat-e Eslami Party to visit the Soviet Union.

During the meeting Mr. Mortazavi referred to the history of ties between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and praised Mr. Gorbachev's wise decision to withdraw the Soviet Army from Afghanistan. He added: The recent developments in your country prove that the will of nations is stronger than any movement and political party. For the same reason we expect the Soviet Government to respect the will of our nation with the greatest degree of realism, and to stop its political, military, and economic support for the Najibollah government.

In conclusion, the spokesman for Afghanistan's Vahdat-e Eslami Party said: We welcome the positive moves undertaken by the neighboring countries and the international organizations to restore peace and to allow the Muslim nation of Afghanistan to determine its own destiny.

Sri Lanka**Ministry Admits to Military Pact With LTTE**

BK2309121491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1201 GMT
23 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 23 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry Monday admitted that armed forces shared equipment and made use of separatist Tamil Tiger guerrillas who have killed thousands of security personnel in a dragging war.

In a two-page statement, the Defence Ministry expanded on an earlier one-paragraph denial and admitted that they cooperated with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to neutralise a pro-Indian rival Tamil group.

"After assessing the ground situation, the LTTE were made use of by our forces to confront and neutralise the TNA (Tamil National Army). "It was in such a situation that the defence forces shared equipment to fight the common enemy, the TNA," the statement said adding that changing security situation demanded "changing strategies and tactics."

The ministry statement did not elaborate on how Tigers were used or what had been shared to attack the TNA, but it said that with the assistance of the LTTE they recovered a large number of weapons.

The statement, however, dismissed as "false propaganda" the claims by ruling party dissidents that President Ranasinghe Premadasa gave 17 anti-aircraft guns to Tigers.

Tigers have also emerged as the key suspects in the assassination of former Indian premier Rajiv Gandhi who ordered his troops to Sri Lanka in line with a 1987 bilateral pact which sought to end Tamil separatism in the island.

The ministry statement came as Tigers Monday rejected Premadasa's claims that they cooperated with Colombo against the TNA which tried to control areas vacated by Indian troops who completed withdrawing from Sri Lanka last year.

The LTTE in a statement released here from its London office said Premadasa's remarks last week that security forces fought alongside Tigers to disarm the TNA "distorts the truth of circumstances."

The Tigers repeated their official line that they single-handedly attacked the TNA in the northeast during secret peace talks with Colombo leading to renewed bloodletting three months after Indians withdrew.

A key Tamil political party behind the TNA slammed Colombo for providing arms to the LTTE and said there was a "universal allegation that this was done by President Premadasa without informing his cabinet or parliament."

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said in a statement Monday that they held Premadasa's regime responsible for the murders and "barbaric terrorism of the LTTE."

"A naked shame and a sheer irresponsibility are being amply manifested in the statement of Colombo defending its unethical and unwarranted, moral and material support, including military logistics to the LTTE," the EPRLF said.

Arming the LTTE is a key issue in an unprecedented impeachment move against Premadasa and a highly sensitive and volatile subject among the majority of Sinhalese here because of the daily death toll among Sinhalese soldiers.

Thousands of people, including troops and civilians, have died in fresh bloodletting since fighting between the LTTE and Colombo forces erupted in June last year after 14-months of secret peace talks between them.

President Addresses Parliament Amid Heckling

*BK2409091091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 24 Sep 91*

[Text] The crucial session of the Sri Lankan Parliament opened in Colombo today with the opposition members heckling President Premadasa during his inaugural address. The continued shouting and disruption by opposition members led by the Sri Lankan Freedom Party marred the one-hour ceremonial opening session. The state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation carried the proceedings live until shouting rendered the president's speech inaudible. The broadcast was then abruptly stopped.

The fourth session of parliament which was suspended for a month by Mr. Premadasa to delay the impeachment motion began this morning under strict and unprecedented security. The trouble started when Mr. Premadasa said the impeachment motion against him was a conspiracy to eliminate him. However, Mr. Premadasa continued his hour-long speech. The president asked the speaker to decide the impeachment motion as soon as possible, because any delay is likely to result in corruption. He said the whole move is the conspiracy of the Israeli and casino agents to eliminate him and that he would not allow the conspiracy to succeed. Mr. Premadasa said he is prepared for an inquiry into all the allegations made against him in the impeachment resolution.

Later, the house was adjourned to meet again in the afternoon. The speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohamed, said that he felt sorry that the opposition members did not adhere to the norms of decorum in spite of his appeals.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued between government troops and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants in the northeast of the country. Air force and naval gunboats continued to attack the militant strongholds in the jungle areas of the Mullaitivu District. A military spokesman said in Colombo that government troops are consolidating their positions captured from the LTTE.

Colombo on 'Full Alert' for Speech

*BK2309092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT
23 Sep 91*

[Text] Colombo, Sept 23 (AFP)—Beleaguered President Ranasinghe Premadasa vowed to remain in power saying he did not deserve impeachment as Colombo went on full alert Monday ahead of his speech to the legislature that will decide his future.

Premadasa told a group of his United National Party (UNP) officials that he had done "no wrong to deserve

impeachment" and said he would stay in office for the his full term which ends in four years.

"My conscience is clear," he said. "May I reassure our party men and innocent people who elected me with a sense of self-sacrifice that I will never quit. It is those who conspire against me who will have to quit," he said.

His remarks were published in the state-controlled DAILY NEWS a day after dissidents within the ruling party asked Premadasa to resign saying he had violated the Constitution by his own admission of arming Tamil separatists.

A powerful section of the governing party sided with virtually the entire opposition to shock the country's usually placid political establishment with the unprecedented impeachment resolution against Premadasa.

The resolution has triggered hectic bargaining to win over dissidents, and the dissidents said the government had offered to rewrite the Constitution in return for their withdrawing the charge sheet.

Premadasa is charged with a wide range of misdemeanours including treason, bribery, corruption, abuse of power, intentional violation of the Constitution and mental and physical infirmity to carry out his duties.

In a bid to delay the impeachment proceedings Premadasa suspended parliament on August 30, two days after the resolution was handed over to Speaker Mohammad Hanifa Mohammad, till Tuesday.

Police said all police stations in the capital and its suburbs had been put on full alert, and several anti-riot squads were standing by to prevent any violence on the ceremonial opening of parliament with Premadasa's address.

The authorities have hinted that they expect unrest even inside the parliament chamber when Premadasa makes his address to parliament which will be the second for the year.

The opposition has vowed to question him Tuesday saying he has no moral right to address the legislative assembly before answering the 12-page charge sheet.

Vincent Perera, the chief government whip, in a letter to his MP's Sunday said they should remain unprovoked in the face of any "disturbance, disruption or threat" inside the assembly hall.

"MPs have been advised not to retaliate even if insults are hurled at his excellency the president," Perera said in his letter.

Opposition MPs for their part have said they feared physical violence against them while on their way to parliament just outside the city.

Two senior cabinet ministers and four junior ministers have quit along with five government backbenchers to

support moves to overthrow Premadasa which have resulted in a smear campaign by both sides of the political divide.

A police spokesman said additional policemen have been moved to the city to maintain law and order and step up checks on vehicles in the city. More police and troops will also be used to man roadblocks and guard entry points to the city.

Opposition Displeased by Speech

BK2309130591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] Colombo, Sept 23 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition party Monday expressed strong displeasure over President Ranasinghe Premadasa's planned address to parliament while facing impeachment proceedings.

The Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said Premadasa's ceremonial opening of parliament Tuesday could bring to bear "undue influence on MPs who have signed the notice of impeachment" against him.

"It will be most incongruous and ludicrous for the president who stands in the capacity of the accused... to ceremonially open or address members of parliament who stand in the capacity as his judges," the SLFP said.

Virtually the entire opposition and 47 of Premadasa's own MPs signed the charge sheet against Premadasa who suspended parliament August 30 two days after the motion was entertained by the speaker.

The SLFP "express our strong displeasure" at Premadasa opening or addressing the assembly as it would be "harmful to the supremacy and dignity of parliament, the party said.

LTTE Faces Arms, Ammunition Shortage

BK2309122991 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Sep 91

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has a severe shortage of arms and ammunition after its principal weapons factories located at (Satis) base in Weli Oya, Mullaitivu were destroyed by the security forces on Friday, 20 September. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that thousands of (Arul) rifles, grenades, (Satelon) mortars, rocket propelled grenades, Johnny and Claymore mines, detonators, ammunition, and fuel dump ready for dispatch to Jaffna and other areas were captured by government troops in Operation Lightning Strike. The sources said the LTTE's fire power has been greatly diminished. They said government troops backed by air cover were yesterday engaged in destroying a number of other smaller (?satellite) bases in the ¼ complex and were consolidating their positions at the captured (Satis) base. Army Commander Lieutenant General Hamilton Wanasinghe has returned to Colombo after a tour of the battle zone. LTTE losses at Weli Oya were reported to be in the region of 750.

The LTTE's former Jaffna Military wing chief, Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu, has slipped into Switzerland across the border from France and is seeking political asylum in that country amid the growing backlash against Tamils claiming refugee status in France. The Swiss regard them as economic (?grunts). Kittu was refused political asylum in Britain and was issued with a deportation order in July. A news dispatch received by LANKAPUVATH from Geneva states that there are 10,000 Tamil refugees at present in Switzerland claiming political asylum under false (?pretexts). There were as many as 25 bomb attacks on irate Swiss nationals in hostels providing board and lodging for Tamil asylum seekers. The dispatch states that over 25,000 Sri Lanka Tamils seeking lucrative employment arrive in Europe annually and claim political asylum for bogus reasons. An estimated 200,000 such refugees are now in Europe—most of them in France, Germany, Italy, the Scandinavian countries and Britain. There is mounting pressure on the governments of these countries to reverse the flow.